

CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE

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The President's Desk

CHILD-WELFARE
DAY,
FEBRUARY 17.

THE National Congress of Mothers' and Parent-Teacher Associations ask that every member of the Congress observe February 17 as Child-Welfare day. The wide service of the National Congress is the subject recommended for the day, with the nation-wide needs of the children. Many people have not yet grasped that the welfare of each child is a matter that directly concerns all. Whether the child lives within the radius of one's personal acquaintance or whether he is separated by thousands of miles his well being is important. The United States is one nation—united and inseparable.

In the National Government each state is represented in making the laws under which we are governed. It concerns all of us what are the ideals and purposes of those who do that great work. The children of to-day will within a decade be in the halls of legislation. The time to create ideals is now, while their character is forming.

By united, consecutive work for eighteen years the National Congress of Mothers has built a strong organization through which home education may be given. There would be no consecutive, comprehensive, enduring work unless there were a National headquarters working all the time to extend child welfare work and strengthen, stimulate and advise every local movement.

For your child, do you not wish to strengthen and increase the opportunities for service which are daily given to the National Congress of Mothers?

Your membership helps a little, but at an offering on Child-Welfare day will you not give all you can to help the National Congress carry forward its great work? If you have no local celebration with the opportunity for an offering, you can send it direct to National Congress of Mothers, 906 Loan and Trust Building, for Child-Welfare work. No matter how small the sum it will be welcome, and will be your donation to the common good.

In another part of the magazine read "Eighteen Year's Work for Child Welfare," and see if it has not been worth while to have had a National Congress of Mothers.

**THIRD INTERNATIONAL
CONGRESS ON
THE WELFARE
OF THE CHILD**

THIRD International Congress on the Welfare of the Child, Washington, April 22 to 27, 1914. Are you planning to attend the Third International Congress on the Welfare of the Child?

From members everywhere comes the plea for conference and discussion rather than long addresses with no time for discussion. In deference to this wish the Executive Board has decided to give the time primarily to conferences in which delegates may participate. The subjects are given in the advance outline.

This does not mean that there will not be notable speakers, for there will be many among the delegates, besides others who have messages of value, because of special study of the topics under consideration.

The Congress numbers in its membership many hundreds of organizations. If each one could be represented it would contribute much to the success of the Congress and stimulate local work afterwards. Will each mothers' or parents' association take up the question of sending at least one delegate at its next meeting? Will each state take up the question of sending its president and three state delegates? Will every one interested in child welfare who is not already a member become an associate member and thus have the opportunity to take part in this Congress?

Hotels and boarding houses suiting every requirement are numerous in Washington. Rates to meet the needs of all can be secured. If you have not received an Advance Outline of Program send for one to 906 Loan and Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

Help to give publicity to this important Congress.

**FIRST BULLETIN
OF CHILDREN'S
BUREAU GIVES
STATISTICS OF
CHILDREN**

THE Federal census of 1910 reports that about one-third of the population of the United States are children under fifteen. There are 29,499,136. Babies under a year old number 2,000,000 and make up almost one-fortieth of the population. There are about the same number of boys and girls, but boys predominate slightly. Seven out of every eight in this country are white. The rest are mostly negroes. The number of white children who are themselves foreign born is only 102,507, or one per cent. One-fourth of all the children in this country are children of immigrant parents.

There are 17,731,580 children, or 60 per cent. of the child population, who are children of parents who were both born in this country.

The geographic distribution of the children is very significant in showing what the future population of these sections will be.

In New England only two children out of five—39.3 per cent.—are native whites of native parentage; 53.5 per cent. are native whites with one or both parents foreign born. In no other section of the country is the percentage formed by the children of foreign parents so high. In the South Atlantic and the East and West South Central divisions the children of foreign birth or mixed foreign and native parents form a very small percentage of the total number. Negro children form 35.8 per cent. of the child population in South Atlantic division and 31.6 per cent. in the East South Central and 22.4 for the West South Central. New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Texas, Ohio, Georgia, Missouri and Massachusetts lead all states in child population, ranging from 1,022,926 in Massachusetts to 2,488,621 in New York. No other states come up to the million mark. Nevada, with 16,989, has the smallest number of children.

In the United States as a whole there are almost five and a half million children under 15 growing up in the cities of 100,000 inhabitants or over. Not quite one child in five lives in a big city. The great body of children are found

in the distinctly rural districts. The total number of children in rural communities of less than 2,500 inhabitants is 17,897,520, which is 60 per cent. of the entire child population of the country. The lowest percentage of country children is found in New England and the highest in the East South Central states.

These figures should be carefully studied by every state branch of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers Associations, for they give in a concrete and definite way the facts concerning each state, and the work that will give most help to the children of that state.

Every citizen of the United States, except the Indians, trace their ancestry to foreign-born parentage. The first settlers were from the northern European countries. The present immigration is largely from Southern European countries. The characteristics and traditions of these nations are quite different from those of the Northern countries,—and this should be understood and considered in the care and education of this large body of children who ten years from now will be an active part of the adult population shaping the policies of this nation.

The National Congress of Mothers must base its educational work on a study of the needs of different sections of the country and on a well-thought-out policy for maintaining the high standards of liberty on which the nation was founded—a government of the people, for the people, by the people. As the twig is bent so the tree is inclined.

Never was constructive educational work in home education more needed for the future of America than at this time.

Anyone desiring to study more deeply these significant statistics may secure the "Handbook of Federal Statistics of Children," by sending to Children's Bureau, Washington, D. C.

ACTUAL CONDITIONS OF JUVENILE COURT JURISDICTION IN America juvenile court laws have been enacted in the United States and Canada. In Europe, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Hungary and Portugal have enacted laws establishing juvenile courts. In Russia some judges have held juvenile court, though no laws have been made requiring them to do so. Germany and Italy have special courts for children.

In Africa, Algeria has enacted a law for juvenile courts, while in Egypt they are held. Australia and New Zealand have enacted laws establishing juvenile courts.

National Education Association Department of Superintendence

PRESIDENT BEN BLEWETT, SUPERINTENDENT OF INSTRUCTION, ST. LOUIS, MO.

ANNUAL meeting Richmond Va. February 23-28, Hotel Jefferson, headquarters.

In connection with the Department of Superintendence, the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations has been assigned to a session on Friday, February 27 at 2 P.M. The topics will be HOME EDUCATION, COÖPERATION OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS, PREVENTION OF TRUANCY, SCHOOLS AND WAYWARD CHILDREN. Dr. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of Education, will preside at the first round table. Among those who will participate in the conference are Mrs. Milton P. Higgins, Worcester, Mass.; Mrs. William Young, Chicago; Mrs. J. R. Leittle, Atlanta, Ga.; Miss Lucy Wheelock, Boston, Mass.; Mrs. Henry Harman, Rutland, Vermont; Miss Ellen Lombard, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Arthur A. Birney, Washington, D. C. The session is open to all, and many educators will participate in the discussions.

Railroads have granted a round trip ticket rate at about one and a half cents a mile, good February 21 to March 4.

Eighteen Years' Work for Child Welfare by National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations

EIGHTEEN years ago this month the Mothers of America met in Washington with the earnest purpose of promoting better opportunities for all children. Mothers, fathers, educators, clergymen and statesmen were there, but the central figures of that great Congress were Mrs. Theodore W. Birney and Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst, both of them mothers, and both women of broad outlook on social conditions and needs. Both had reached the conclusion that the foundation of civic and social betterment could be reached by more intelligent, comprehensive care of children. It was the first time in history that mothers of a nation had been called together to consider their own responsibilities as mothers and the relation of the home to civic and social life. It was an epoch in the history of the world, for the objects there incorporated into the constitution have been carried into action and have had an inestimable influence "in rousing the whole community to a sense of its responsibility to the children"—which was adopted as an important aim of the organization.

Article II of the constitution states the objects as follows:

ARTICLE II.

OBJECTS.

The objects of this Congress shall be to raise the standards of home life; to give young people opportunities to learn how to care for children, so that when they assume the duties of parenthood they may have some conception of the methods which will best develop the physical, intellectual and spiritual nature of the child; to bring into closer relations the home and the school, that parents and teachers may co-operate intelligently in the education of the child; to surround the childhood of the whole world with that wise, loving care in the impressionable years of life that will develop good citizens; to use systematic and earnest effort to this

end through the formation of Parent-Teacher Associations in every public school and elsewhere, through the establishment of kindergartens, and through distribution of literature which will be of practical use to parents in the problems of home life; to secure more adequate laws for the care of blameless and dependent children, and to carry the mother-love and mother-thought into all that concerns childhood. The Congress believes that, with the aid of Divine Power, these objects will be accomplished.

First of all the Congress placed emphasis on home life, for every child comes into some kind of a home, and the influences for good or evil are never forgotten. The Congress set for its primary work raising the standards of every home to best fit the requirements of infancy, childhood and youth. That meant education of parents in child nurture, in all that conduces to the best kind of a home. It meant reaching every home with the knowledge which is essential in good home making. The Congress saw children suffering from parental ignorance concerning health, foods, physical, mental and spiritual growth and methods which best promote each. It saw parents craving more light, but with no means offered for satisfying the craving. It assumed the task of supplying this great need of parents and children.

The Congress saw a great body of teachers who were sharing with parents the guidance of children, yet neither was in communication with the other, and without coöperation the task of both parents and teachers was more difficult; the children suffered by this lack of mutual understanding and coöperation.

The Congress saw the majority of children coming under school jurisdiction and through the well systematized school system it saw the way to open the opportunity for home educa-

tion to parents, and at the same time secure intelligent coöperation of home and school through the establishment of Parent-Teacher Associations in connection with every school.

The National Congress of Mothers assumed the work of organizing these associations, and it also assumed the permanent function of the educational direction of the home education work of all these associations, which would make them of real value to parents wherever they might be, ensure their continuance and keep them true to their fundamental, far-reaching purpose.

There had been parents' associations of various kinds in some schools, but the National Congress of Mothers originated the movement to make them universal and to widen the scope of the educational system by making the schools serve the double purpose of educating children, and of providing the education for parents in all that would enable them to be better parents and home makers. This included the wider use of school buildings, opening them for reading rooms and recreation centres wherever the need existed for such use, and placing the direction of such use in the hands of those most concerned, viz.: the parents and teachers of the children in the schools.

The plan was a comprehensive one. The Congress assumed the functions of a National University for Parents, with its headquarters in Washington, but radiating its educational help to all who could be reached.

The Congress saw what to the mother heart seemed gross neglect of dependent, orphan and erring children. It saw children in prisons and jails in every state; it saw children associated with criminals in all court procedure; it saw no discrimination between the offenses of children and adults and no adequate provision for helping them. To put mother-love and mother-thought into the solution of these conditions and to ask Divine guidance in the great work of guarding and guiding little children was

one of the objects to which the Congress pledged itself.

The National Congress of Mothers was consecrated to one great purpose—the welfare of the child in home, church, school and State. To that work it has given itself for eighteen years and has been the moving factor in creating the wide interest in many phases of child welfare which marks the present time. The demand created for books on child nurture made by the organized parenthood of the nation has caused a new bibliography which offers to parents opportunity for self-culture in their vital duty. Magazines, and daily papers give much space to articles relating to home and children. As leaders in this field of authorship Dr. G. Stanley Hall, Froebel, Pestalozzi, Horace Mann, Elizabeth Harrison, Kate Douglas Wiggin, Helen Hunt Jackson will always be recognized with appreciation for directing attention to the fact that children were worth studying, that child nurture is a science, that by applying it to the care of every child, humanity will rise surely to higher standards than in any other way.

Educators as well as parents now recognize that to be a good teacher one must know how to impart knowledge as well as possess the information himself, and much time is now given to learning how to do this.

When the Congress met 18 years ago, comparatively little attention had been given to protective legislation for all phases of child welfare. In changing this condition the National Congress of Mothers has wielded a mighty influence.

The Congress did not originate the Juvenile Court and Probation system, but it saw its advantages and worked for years to establish the juvenile court and probation system throughout this and other lands, conducting a systematic propaganda which was successful in many places.

Then by practical experience of mothers in the juvenile court, detention houses instead of jails were promoted, and the placing of the proba-

tion work on a foundation which required efficiency in child nurture as a qualification for such service became a feature of the Congress work.

The breaking up of families through poverty or death or desertion of one parent next engaged the consideration of the Congress, and the movement for the Mothers' pension was inaugurated and has been promoted with ever-increasing success. This has won the support of many thinking men and women, judges and legislatures and to the Congress is due the enactment of the law in some states, while in all states the Congress has given its support to the movement, which must eventually become a law in every state. Its advantages in economy and efficiency have already been proved.

There was no child labor committee in existence when the National Congress of Mothers inaugurated the movement to regulate the employment of children in mines and factories. The Congress of Mothers has always stood for wise regulation as to children's occupation, but has never stood for the rigid prevention of all occupation for children, and has not always endorsed the legislation which has gone too far in prohibition of individual freedom and initiative.

The baby-saving work can only be done by mothers, for they are the ones who have the care of the babies, and only by interesting and educating them can the 300,000 infant deaths in the United States be reduced.

The National Congress of Mothers maintains that this is an educational work and not a charity; that the only way to interest mothers in it is to lift it out of the help to poor mothers, and place it on the broad basis of education for all mothers.

No woman enjoys being classified as a poor mother, and naturally resents help designed for "the poor." This has held back the work in many places.

The Child Hygiene Department, after experiments as to methods that will be most efficient and far-reaching,

has formed plans of work for the coming year which should result in saving the lives of many babies.

Write to the National office and learn how you can help. The Child Hygiene Department has also conducted an active campaign for clean school houses, good school housekeeping, ventilation, and health of school children.

The provision of reading for mothers and children led to the publication of *BOOK LISTS FOR MOTHERS* and *BOOK LISTS FOR CHILDREN* which, with frequent revision, have gone through many editions.

The many requests for advice from parents led to the publication of the pamphlet on *PARENTS' DUTY TO CHILDREN CONCERNING SEX*, which has gone through many editions and is within the reach of everyone because the cost is but ten cents.

The National Congress of Mothers has for nearly eight years published *CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE*, which covers a field not covered by any other publication and which has enlisted the valuable support of men and women who are leaders in child study and child welfare work. It supplies programs for parents associations, and a wide outlook on conditions and needs of children.

To further meet the educational demands on child nurture the Congress circulates a valuable list of loan papers for individual use for use of associations.

The greatest publication of the National Congress of Mothers is "*PARENTS AND THEIR PROBLEMS*," in eight volumes. These books have been edited by Mrs. Mary H. Weeks, Vice-President of the Congress, and everything contained in them has been submitted to the Publication Committee for approval. The price has been made as low as possible, as the desire of the Congress is to give many homes the benefit of them.

Every Parents' Association will find them valuable for the foundation of a circulating library.

The National Congress of Mothers

has established state branches in many states, all of which are credited with valuable child welfare work. The Congress has extended its influence to all nations because, under the consecrated work for child and home, every child becomes an object of interest and regard as all are children of One Father. All are travelling by different paths to the eternal home. Cuba has organized a National Congress of Mothers; Argentina is preparing to carry out the work on the plan of the United States.

Two International Congresses on Child-Welfare have been held in Washington with the coöperation of the Department of State and the President of the United States. Invitations to every nation have been sent.

The Third International Congress on the Welfare of the Child will meet in Washington April 22-27, 1914. The Department of State again aided the Congress in the invitation for all nations to participate. In addition to the annual national child-welfare conferences there have been annual child-welfare conferences in the majority of states, while the local organizations have steadily grown in numbers and in the respect and esteem of those who have seen their value.

The Parent-Teacher Association has long passed its experimental stage.

From educators everywhere the letters come asking the help of the Congress in organizing the associations, and in providing programs for them.

The testimonials as to their helpfulness are given by hundreds, and the little pamphlet "HOW TO ORGANIZE PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS" has gone through many editions, for by its help any parent or teacher can form such an association.

The officers of the National Congress of Mothers through the help of former President Roosevelt conferred with the heads of the different divisions in the Department of Agriculture and have received and given coöperation in the fine work of that department for country life, while

Hon. Logan Waller Page is chairman of the Country Life Department. The establishment of the Children's Bureau was a measure which was supported by the Congress and with which it has coöperated.

The Congress has worked earnestly for years to secure the enlargement of the educational work of the Bureau of Education so that its help would be given to homes and parents as well as to schools and teachers. The Bureau has added several important divisions within the last two years, and one which will greatly strengthen the opportunity of parents is the Home Education division of the Bureau, to which come hundreds of letters expressing appreciation and gratitude that at last parents may have advice and help in home making and child nurture.

The Congress owes much to the leaders in child nurture. Dr. G. Stanley Hall, Dr. M. V. O'Shea, Miss Elizabeth Harrison, Dr. Helen C. Putnam, Hon. Ben B. Lindsey, who have generously given of their best to aid the Congress in the work.

Coöperation with other National welfare organizations has been an important advance, which has marked the last year. Child-welfare is a universal interest. Physicians who wish better health conditions find the Congress the natural medium for reaching the most homes.

Patriotic organizations find a wide field of service in promoting patriotism through use of the organized parenthood of the nation. Educators have found that through this medium it has been possible to promote greater interest and support for the important work they have in hand.

The point of view of fathers and mothers who study child conditions is often different from that of those who have had less experience with children.

"The love of childhood is the common tie which unites us in holiest purpose," was the word of one of the honored founders of the Congress. It is only by love and sympathy that one

can judge the needs of children, and the motives which are at the basis of their actions. The Congress emphasizes the value of love and sympathy, but also emphasizes the necessity for wisdom in race development and tendencies which should be combined with love to ensure the best for children.

Fathers and mothers who through years of thoughtful work have reared a family will all testify that their experience has modified many of the opinions of earlier years.

The foundation of the home is laid in marriage held sacred and permanent. The Congress believes that in the education of boys and girls as to the responsibilities and duties of marriage many divorces will be prevented.

Through its Department on Marriage Sanctity it has urged upon theological schools the need for more specific, definite instruction concerning marriage to be given in every church.

The Congress has lent its influence and aid to promote uniform marriage and divorce laws, in protection of children and homes.

To enumerate all that has been visibly accomplished would fill a volume. Only He who reads all hearts, who knows the children whose lives have been guided into paths of use and service, who were standing at the parting of the ways needing love and help, only He can record the greater but invisible service this National Congress of Mothers has given.

From Atlantic to Pacific, from Maine to Florida, on February 17, the eighteenth anniversary of the organization of the Congress, men, women and children who are allied with this great work will do well to look back over the years that have passed, with

gratitude in their hearts that such progress in child welfare has been made.

Yet every day many little ones come into homes that for the first time rejoice that a child is born, and for every one of those homes the Congress would give the message of the God-given possibilities that are enfolded in that little life waiting the fostering care of wise nurture and guidance to reach its greatest possibilities. Still there are many little ones deprived of home care craving home and mothering. If a mother is God's greatest gift to children of earth, what a power for good must come from the united effort of every mother! Add to that the faithful co-operation of every father, every teacher, all who have caught the meaning of the Divine message "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these ye have done it unto me," and the greatest organized force for the uplift of humanity has been brought into existence.

Those who would make their lives count most for the world's work have seen in the work for the children a vision of what this world may be when every little innocent child may have the care that will nurture instead of crush the Divine image in which each one is created.

The Congress is open to all who see the limitless opportunities for service to the children.

There is no place where its work is not needed. There is no one who has not the power to help.

Multiplying many times the membership and influence, may the years that lie ahead bring ever increasing opportunities for service.

MBS. FREDERIC SCHOFF,
President.

A Father's Appeal for Home Life

THE other morning a fine man—the sort generally and properly regarded as the right type of citizen, said to me, “I have not been fair to my wife for more than fifteen years, but I’m going to begin to make up for it now.”

I asked him what he meant.

“I’ve been away from home too much, far too much. Church, civic and social engagements have taken me out, on an average, four nights a week. Sometimes seven nights. Last week I spent one evening with my wife. And on that very evening I made up my mind I would never again let such a thing happen.

“I’m not old yet, but I’m old enough to have found out that the most important thing in a man’s life is his home. Not only is it the most important thing for him and his wife and family, but for the community in which he lives and the state and the nation and all humanity. Yet all these years I have never thought of it in the light my mind now brings to bear on it.

“The affairs that have taken me away from home have not been foolish or frivolous. The least considerable of them have been dinners and banquets. Other than these, they have been meetings and conferences at which matters of real importance have been considered. But I believe I could have done more good by staying at home from most of these. I know I could have kept myself fitter for the task that is mine. And there is not a doubt that the bonds between my wife and children and myself would be stronger and more helpful to all of us.”

Now this is a true record of another conversation I had the other morning.

The man I talked with is young, but he looks old. He comes of a fine family, as the saying goes, though every family whose members are honest and industrious is a fine family.

Somewhere he has a young wife and a baby. He never has seen the baby. Somewhere he has three lovely sisters and a father and a mother. He has not seen them for a long time. No, he is not in prison, though once he was.

He is one degree removed from a “bum,”—a worthless, unreliable, shifty fellow, who has forgotten how to tell the truth. Knowing him well enough, I asked what had led to his downfall.

“I don’t want to blame any one unfairly,” he said, “but I guess a square judge would say my father is largely responsible. You see, when I was a boy my mother was busy all the time with the girls—they were younger than I—and didn’t have much time for me. And father was out every evening, so when I wanted company, I had to go out to find it. You know what kind a fellow finds when he does that!”

I know the circumstances in his case well enough to know he was telling the truth.

And his father was a man who held many offices of public trust and was reputed to be a great friend of the people and a most admirable man!

I know there are some homes where conditions are such that a man isn’t to be blamed for getting away as often as he can. But I know these are the exception.

I know there are thousands of homes in which brave, fine, patient women are being starved to death for want of companionship; where boys are being sent out to find their own company, for lack of congenial companions in the home; where girls are getting the wrong view of life, and all because of a little thoughtlessness on the part of the husband, the father.

If you are a man, try this on and see if it fits you.

If a woman, ask some man to slip it on!—LEIGH MITCHELL HODGES, in the *North American*.

Recent Progress in Child Study

DR. G. STANLEY HALL

FROM its very beginning I have always regarded the Mothers' Congress with its aims as the very highest of all organizations of women, excellent as most of the rest are, because it calls attention to the highest of all the functions of mankind. The transmission of the sacred torch of life, the production, rearing and betterment of new generations in *saecula saeculorum*, is the supreme test of the value to the world not only of woman but of man, and indeed of every human institution, educational, cultural, religious, and of civilization itself. For no race in history ever flourished that did not excel, and none ever declined or died that did not lose this power. Not only is the best mother, actual or potential, the best woman, but we are now coming to realize that the best man is he with the best powers of fatherhood, with all that that implies, in him. In the new light of eugenics we are having a new dispensation of human worths and values, among which parenthood is supreme.

Your place of meeting is significant. While we have here our Daughters and Sons of the Revolution and our pride of pedigree, New England is the place where the old first-growth population has died out fastest and even Boston is not ruled by the descendants of the Puritans, while the country-side far around shows more abandoned farms and extinct families than any other place in the world of which statistics give us knowledge. This is the region too where in the old days of the doctrine of infant depravity a child was thought more meanly of than in any place or day in history, where it was thought to be born not trailing Wordsworthian clouds of glory, but corrupt, depraved, and tainted with ancestral sin and doomed for perdition; and hence it was that childhood here had probably the most repressive and cruel treatment and less respect

and love for both its body and soul than ever before. Never anywhere was childhood made so dismal and miserable, during the stages of its unfoldment. Instead of being regarded as each ends in themselves they were considered as so many necessary evils to be overcome as rapidly as possible, until adulthood made the individual of some worth. Strange to say, these were the days in which children abounded, and preachers of infant damnation married early, usually had large families, wore out the first wife, and the majority remarried, some of them twice, so that the later wife often wore herself out caring for the offspring of her predecessor. Why children flocked in such numbers to a land where they were thought by nature from birth the devil's own, where their mortality was so very great, and why they stay away from their contemporary descendants, with whom the pendulum has swung the other way and they are held in such high esteem, is one of the mysteries of the great biologists, as is the problem why it is that not only the mother but the father among newcomers from foreign lands to our shores, live so much and so close to their children, and as they grow up indulge, pet, are led by, and often spoil them, illustrating the very opposite of the old Puritan sternness and aloofness. Surely where the original white population is dwindling in so many places and increasing so slowly in all, and where our present and the national future is so dependent on the one million, more or less, immigrants, that annually cast their lot among us, a Congress of Mothers not only has a peculiar place but faces some of the very gravest of all problems, so that all intelligent and thoughtful people must wish it and its work the heartiest Godspeed.

My theme, Recent Progress in Child Study, is too large for more than brief glances along a few lines.

Whereas scientific child study almost began in this country and was at first looked upon a little askance in other lands, they have taken it up so vigorously that leadership in this work, as represented by new lines of investigation, journals, has, alas, passed from this country to continental Europe and the best child study is now "made in Germany," which in recent years has turned out most that is new and good, although we meanwhile have been steadily doing more and more each year. Although the attention the child receives *in the family* in this country is probably less than in any other civilized land, the condition here is on the whole improving, and we can at least say that in the number of resources and activity of public welfare societies, devoted to the betterment of childhood's estate, we do now without question lead the world. As we classify and keep tab on these societies at the Children's Institute at Clark University, we make more than one hundred and ten different types of organizations devoted to as many different needs of childhood, normal and abnormal, and more than half of them of recent origin. They concern themselves with the child at work and at play and after school; some work for the tempted boy and girl, others study and direct social organizations of childhood and youth. Others study defectives, delinquents, dependents, the subnormal child, hygiene in its many aspects in the school and home. One protects the child from cruelty; another prevents it from being cruel to animals. One provides homes for a million orphans and strives to prevent their exploitation. Several states have adopted legal measures to prevent the propagation of the unfit, and several more have annual baby shows along with the cattle shows, with elaborate score-cards and prizes, to refute the charge that we can breed cattle but not men. Some would reform legislation in many points where it is so regardless of the interests of children. Some are developing new methods and ideals

for the treatment of the unwed mothers. Others occupy themselves with the responsibility of seeing that children have good stories told them, while others provide reading or censor moving pictures and even theatres. Others study and try to control the scores of gangs in all our large cities, which represent reversion to the savage tribe, seeking opportunities to inspire them and other child organizations with industrial, social or moral ends, while others are giving us new ideals and methods of how to understand and treat the juvenile criminal. There are now many agencies for caring for cripples, for tuberculous children, etc., etc. In all these lines of work on the whole we are learning, and in some ways it is more attractive to work for abnormal than for normal children, and to-day more ingenuity and originality are given to the exceptional child than to the average child. But it is encouraging to look over these organizations and to find that we are slowly solving more and more the difficult problem of treating by far the largest group of children, on whom the success of the future depends, that is, the normal and average child, and indeed we are even making some progress in understanding and training and opening up special rights of way to children of superior gifts.

There is still, however, too great a chasm between scientific knowledge of the child and the practical surveys of children in the above philanthropic fields, so that there is a great and growing need for a national organization where those engaged in the accurate study of child nature can be brought into contact with and both teach and learn from those in the field and seeking to mitigate special evils to which children are exposed, and to help them in their development. Now the general trend of recent pedagogy (the ology that deals with the child) is to lay more and more stress upon the first three years of life as basal for health, morals, and future efficiency. We are all children of our

infancy. More specifically, about every disease or even slight abnormality with any nervous or mental feature to it, almost always springs directly from something amiss in the first triennium of life,—years of which the adult retains almost no or the very scantiest memories. This is the day in which the feelings, instincts, impulses, disposition, diathesis, character, temperament, words the meaning of which cannot be very well distinguished but all of which point to the same central thing, which is fundamental for everything else, are being shaped. Not only is the emotional life pretty well performed forever by the end of the third year, but the basal traits of our nature have hardened pretty well almost into fate. So too is the way and degree in which the future adult will love and hate, be leader or follower, be sexually precocious or retarded. In no other three years will the child's soul and body grow so fast and at no period are both so vulnerable. These new insights about this period are coming to make the nursery more important than the kindergarten or even the school. One recent authority states it strongly by saying that after the age of three little can be done to change the character of the individual, for the rest of life is nothing but the copying in larger and larger type what is written there. These forgotten years of infancy which mould disposition have vastly more to do than had been dreamed of before in predisposing to health or invalidism in later life, for making success or failure in family or business, in pre-determining good or bad temper, courage or timidity, vigor or weakness of will, sympathy or callousness, docility or obtuseness, in making us poised or flighty, and there is much reason to think that the first three years really shape the material of even our later reveries and dreams.

Now the shaping of this plastic core of human nature is entrusted to mothers, for fathers can do little with it save indirectly by keeping the mother well, free and happy. The

father has grave responsibilities at this period to his child, for now that husband does most for his child who does most for its mother. Let me try and put in plain language a few of the practical results of the recent rather technical analyses that have led to these new insights concerning the first three years of life.

1. For the suckling the mother is in the place of God, for it feels toward her the same sentiments of absolute dependence which later turned toward the divine make religion, or turned toward nature make reverence for the nature-lover or scientist, toward the moral law within, the philosopher, etc. In other plain words, it shows that those who love good mothers best are most likely to love later the great all-mother, Nature, and life. If the mother nurses her child, it is just about four times as likely to live through the first year, and if she cares for and handles its body herself, it is later more docile and tractable. It remains almost as before birth, consubstantial with her body and soul, and it grows naturally because all ailments are chiefly arrests that check the developmental impulse, although it may be in a very real, or be it in a subtle and imperceptible way and degree, but all such checks are permanent and never overcome. The rubber nipple especially as a placebo has sprung into sudden and almost amazing prominence as a source of a very specific danger. The child too accustomed to this tends to develop more or less persistent and excited sucking, all the more so if it does not bring food, and this may cause flushing and a kind of second breath which makes for an erectile habit of body and creates an unstable erethistic disposition which may lie dormant for years and to which later adolescent impairments of health strike back their roots and find strong re-enforcement. Thus *Lutschers* are laying the foundations for passionate hysterical impulsions which may later defy normal control, while this habit is one of the chief predisposers toward self-

abuse. In many ways early propensities underly preformed reproductive habits, so akin are processes that serve for assimilation of food and those that serve for the conservation of the race. Normal diet and modes of feeding are then among the very best safeguards against sex errors later.

2. Abnormalities at the lower end of the alimentary tract in the infant are also often found to be almost fateful on the later psychic life in ways hitherto unknown. More or less prolonged periods of interest in excremental activities are natural and normal. It is an expression of curiosity and a legitimate element of self-knowledge but if too prolonged or excessive, as it tends to be in nervous children, it lays the foundation for certain nameless perverse proclivities long familiar to medicine but never before known to be connected with these infantile traits. On the other hand, if these tendencies are too prematurely or too strongly repressed by applying adult standards of modesty or shame the soul tends to react into over-fastidiousness, scrupulosity, morbid cleanliness, misophobia, or morbid fears of contagion, etc. Thus here too we find another deep tap-root of the tendency toward certain perversities affecting the relation of the child and the race. On the other hand, by establishing regularity of habits and gratifying but not inflaming the child's natural lust for knowledge here, we can erect thus early an efficient barrier against a troop of bad traits and even diseases later.

3. Infant nature falls into two great types, the aggressive and the passive. Some instinctively submit, obey, accept authority, tend to acquiescence, are sympathetic; while others are no less instinctively independent, obstinate, prone to attack, fight, perhaps be cruel, bullies, etc. This distinction does not entirely coincide with that between girls and boys, for as Schopenhauer long ago said, some boys seem to have girls' souls and some girls seem to have boys'. There are of course all gradations between these

types. Moreover disposition may change with age, especially at puberty, and once more, all are aggressive in some and passivists in other ways, so that it is a question of preponderance. Those who are activists to excess if their energy breaks through the restraints of law commit crimes of violence, or if their energy is tempered and directed they do the great deeds of the world, become heroes, pioneers, discoverers, inventors, leaders, while passivists to excess become cowards, sycophants, slaves, victims of others, place-hunters, not place-makers. They are weaklings and if they become criminals it is because they are led into it. Their crime is of the vice type, because they are led by others without will power or *initiative*. The better type of them may learn, become faithful executives of others' wills, they may make excellent clerks or even great scholars but are so actively, not creatively. Toward the other sex this latter type are very submissive and in family life become subjected, while the other are masters and subduers by force. Now it is during the first three years that this fundamental difference in disposition can be very greatly modified. Excesses both ways may be corrected unless there is strong neurotic heredity. This can be done chiefly by disciplining fear, anger and sympathy, among the chief main-springs of human life and character. We have to deal here with what German physicians call *Angst* (a larger term than our anxiety, for it covers about all the nervous and mental troubles). Some of this *Angst* must be drained off into specific forms of fear, wholesome types of punishment, or anger may be changed from petty irritability to greater outbreaks against real evils, and all this can be done by processes known as repression, vicariousness, sublimation, which are simply operations which are almost instinctive to the really insightful and devoted mother. To the weaklings, on the other hand, spurs must be applied to their apathy, of a kind that will rouse whatever germs

of possibility there toward the opposite type. They must be sometimes made to be afraid and angry. This intricate theme I cannot here enter, but it is much to know that so fundamental a diathesis can be changed if taken in its nascent period to a degree almost impossible later and undreamed of before.

4. To a girl of three her father is the ideal of his sex, as to the boy of three the mother is of hers. The nascent love that years later each will feel for his or her mate, begins to burgeon toward the parent, which is its first object, and the home is its sprouting garden before transplantation occurs. There are sometimes infantile fantasies that the parent of the same sex is away and that the child takes the vacant place, as he or she understands it. Even at this tender age each parent is beginning to shape the pattern and especially the ideal which the child is to have of the other sex, and we have abundant instances of boys who have loved their mothers too much and too long, and still more cases of girls who have directed so much of their affection toward their fathers and continued to do so so far on in their lives that as they approached maturity they grew a trifle if unconsciously jealous of their own mothers or fathers respectively. Now the stronger and the longer this continues the more probable it is that each when they marry can only be happy with a mate made body, soul or both, in the image of the favorite parent. The father especially may so stamp his image upon his daughter's soul that

wedded happiness with a man of a totally different type would be impossible, while even the mother is the unconscious model or pattern which her son seeks to copy in rejuvenated form in his bride. Now, too much of this is clearly not in the interests of eugenics, but enough of it in its time is of vital importance. But the moral for us is that each parent must realize that their personality has very much to do with determining the kind of partner their child of the other sex will later take, that thus even their frailties as well as their virtues are prone to be sought in their children's future mates, and that thus they should strive to live up to all they wish these mates to be. This gives a new and noble function to parenthood. But each should avoid an intimacy so close or prolonged that the child when nubile either finds it too hard to turn affection to a mate at all or narrows the range of selection too much. Error here brings only domestic tragedy and pathos, as is seen in many cases all about us, not a few of which come to the courts and asylums, for when the powers of adjustment to different personalities are limited as they are so prone to do with neurotic traits, misfits doubtless do tend to torture the stock out of existence and may be for the interests of the race though cruel to the individual. Cases of this type so numerous in psychiatry are even beginning to find their way into current literature. Of this the best parents of children of marriageable age need to take most heed.

Important Notice

THE National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, *The Woman's Home Companion* and The American Medical Association have entered into an alliance for a nationwide work for saving the babies and helping parents to the knowledge of babyology which, when understood, reduces infant mortality sixty to seventy per cent. Every parents'

association and mothers' circle is urged to appoint a chairman of child hygiene and send her name and address to Mrs. Anna Steese Richardson, The Adlan, 200 Fifth Ave., National Chairman; Mrs. Robert H. Tate, 1811 East Morrison St., Portland, Oregon, will have charge of the work on the Pacific Coast.

Oregon Child-Welfare Commission

THIS Commission was appointed January 7, 1913, by Governor West at the request of the National Congress of Mothers. Five members constitute the commission, as follows: Hon. L. R. Alderman, Superintendent of Schools, Portland; Mrs. John H. Smith, Astoria; Doctor George Rebec, University of Oregon, Eugene; Mrs. Robert H. Tate, Portland, Chairman.

The purpose of this Commission is to study conditions affecting childhood, to ascertain the best way to remedy existing evils and to endeavor, through legislation and education, to throw necessary and proper safeguards about the children of the state.

At the first meeting, a general outline of the duties pertaining to this Commission were discussed.

It was deemed important to carefully inspect all Children's Institutions, gather statistics from other States and make comparisons; also to study Juvenile Courts, Parental Schools and Kindergartens. Other phases to be considered are as follows: Compulsory school attendance, free text-books, medical inspection in schools and factories, vacation problems, playgrounds, open-air schools, moving-picture theatres, and vaudeville shows. The moral and religious side of child-life also will be reported upon. The Commission is planning to investigate the following: Deficiencies, physical and moral health, industrial, recreational, and educational problems; birth registration laws and their enforcement, bureau of vital statistics, duties of County Health Officers regarding quarantine and medical inspection in the rural districts.

Mrs. John H. Smith, the member from Astoria, has succeeded in improving the moral tone of the Vaudeville Shows in her city and is planning to do likewise throughout the State.

At the request of the Commission, Mayor Albee appointed a committee

of ten citizens to visit the vaudeville shows of Portland and report upon the moral tone of performances, the sanitation and ventilation.

Of the State Institutions, the Training School, the Insane Hospital and the School for the Feeble-minded are being carefully studied, largely with a view toward learning what existing evils caused the boys and girls to be committed, to consider preventive measures and offer recommendations to our Legislators that may tend to decrease the number of unfortunates.

Many hours have been spent at the School for the Deaf; much material is being gathered from elsewhere, upon which to base recommendations for the solution of the problem of reaching the large per cent. of deaf children in Oregon who are not receiving an education. Every effort made to secure opportunities for the complete development of deaf children should be encouraged. Wonderful results have been obtained in other States through the establishment of day schools where articulate speech and speech reading is being taught entirely. Here, too, plans will be made looking toward the prevention of deafness. The Commission realizes the vastness of its work and the great importance of it; much might be accomplished for the betterment of Oregon's children, many more of whom should become useful citizens. Every man and woman in the State ought to cooperate by using their influence to assist this commission in carrying out the work assigned to it.

Various commissions have been appointed in the States, but they deal largely with every kind of conservation and adult problems, but omit child conservation and child problems. We hope that before another year closes all of the State branches of the Mothers' Congress will have interested their respective Governors to such an extent that they will appoint Commissions for the study and im-

provement of conditions affecting the children of their commonwealth, thus advancing another step in achieving one of the purposes of the Congress, "To surround the childhood of the

whole world with that loving, wise care in the impressionable years of life, that will develop good citizens, instead of lawbreakers and criminals."

MRS. ROBERT H. TATE, *Chairman.*

Race Suicide

In countries with a declining birth rate many legislatures have sought by judicious lawmaking to reward an honorable woman who performs her prime duty to the State by bearing and rearing the children without whom the State will have no future whatever, and to discriminate in favor of the honorable man who, as husband and father, is the prop of the commonwealth.

The truth is self-evident that if the average married couple which has children has only two children, the whole race will disappear in a very few generations. Unless the average married couple has three children the race cannot by any possibility perpetuate itself in numbers under any conditions. Under existing conditions, taking into account the children who die before they are adult, the adults who do not marry, and those who marry but who, to their great sorrow and for unavoidable reasons, have no children, or only one or two, it is obvious that unless the average married couple capable of having children has four children the race will not increase. I ask people who object to this statement to remember that I am not making an argument. I am merely stating a fact. I am dealing with a law of nature which can no more be ignored, defied, or evaded than any other law of nature—the law of gravitation, for instance.

I do not believe in reckless marriages, where the man is unable to support a wife, nor in couples who recklessly and thoughtlessly have multitudes of children whom they are unable to bring up properly, nor in the man who forces upon an unfit wife excessive and unlimited child-bearing. But this form of reckless and brutal selfishness is not as wicked as the cold, calculating, and most unmanly and unwomanly selfishness which makes so many men and women shirk the most important of all their duties to the State. Incidentally, when they show this sordid and selfish cowardice they deprive themselves of that highest type of earthly happiness which is to be found only in the companionship of the husband and wife who with deep and tender consideration, facing life with high courage, love one another and who love and care for the healthy and happy children whom it has been their supreme blessing to bring into the world.—

THEODORE ROOSEVELT, *The Outlook.*

Recreation for the Country Girl

BY HENRY S. CURTIS, Ph.D.

(Continued from page 131)

CAMP FIRE GIRLS

THE camp fire girls is a recently formed organization that resembles in many ways the Boy Scouts. In fact, it has been developed largely on account of the desire of some girls to become scouts. While its name speaks of the camp fire, a better name might really be Fireside Girls, as it is a method of lending a certain romance to the labors and duties of the home, to get the girl to acquire as a part of an initiation into a romantic organization the knowledge that she will need as a woman and a mother. In a way it resembles the initiative ceremonies of many primitive tribes which are given by the old women at the time of puberty. This initiation teaches the secret knowledge and mysteries of the tribe, and may be regarded as a preparation for marriage.

There are three orders of the Camp Fire Girls, as there are of the Boy Scouts also. The first is the Wood-Gatherer, corresponding to the Tenderfoot Scout. Before a girl can become a Wood Gatherer she must be able to repeat the following:

It is my desire to become a Camp Fire Girl and to obey the law of the Camp Fire, which is,

"Seek beauty
Give service
Pursue knowledge
Be trustworthy
Hold on to health
Glorify work."

The girl who has become a Wood-Gatherer is allowed to wear a green chevron on her sleeve to indicate that fact. There is also an inexpensive silver ring that is one of the badges of the order. Girls from twelve years of age to twenty are eligible for membership. A troop consists of from six to twenty girls. The leader, who is supposed to be an adult, is called the Warder of the Fire. The girls

come together weekly with a ceremonial meeting or council fire once a month. At this gathering the girls are supposed to wear, if possible, their ceremonial dress, which is of galatea of a special pattern. This dress may be made by the girls themselves at a cost of about sixty cents. Before a girl can be advanced to the second degree, the Fire-Maker, she must acquire a certain number of honors, which means that she shall acquire a certain number of housewifely and motherly arts. She must be able to cook, to make bread of two different kinds, prepare ten different kinds of soups, to recognize three different kinds of baby cries and the meaning of each, to know the chief causes of infant mortality, and the way at least one city has reduced the rate; then there are a number of other rules about exercise, taking care of her health, and the observation of nature. Before she can be a Fire Maker she must be able to repeat:

"As fuel is brought to the fire
So I purpose to bring
My strength
My ambition
My heart's desire
My joy
And my sorrow
To the fire
Of human kind
For I will tend
As my fathers fathers
Since time began
The fire that is called
The love of man for man
The love of man for God."

The third degree is that of Torch-Bearer. Before a girl may attain to this degree she must have mastered many things in the distinctly feminine arts, and she must also have trained at least three other girls in some of the honors of the lower degrees. The

training that is given for the Camp Fire Girls is much more fundamental and important than the training that is given in most schools. It is education in the arts of living, in health, and strength, in a love for nature, skill in doing the things that the housewife is supposed to know, the craft of the home and the craft of the mother and in its later honors the craft of citizenship as well. Over all is thrown the glamor and romance of the camp fire and ceremonial. The great difficulty that faces the movement is that there are very few women who have the training or time to be Warders of the Camp Fire and without a leader the Camp Fire is impossible. I should like to see it put into the program of the public high school and let the girls have Friday afternoon of each week under their regular teachers for their camp fire. The training of the camp fire is the training that the country girl most needs. It is the sort of training that will help her to enjoy the open country, on the one hand, and that will fit her to organize its home and community life on the other. Still it is hard to see how she can get it at present at least. It would be very difficult indeed to find women in the open country, who could take the time or who would be willing and able to be Warders of the Camp Fire. At present most country girls do not attend school much after they are old enough to be Camp Fire Girls. However, the problem of the country village is almost identical with that of the farm, and the young people are often worse off from a surplus of idleness than the farm young people are from a surplus of work. The village is near to nature for the nature lore and hikes that are required. The girls have the time and it should not be impossible to find the leadership that is required. The village is the best

place there is for the organization of the order. In olden times the girls were pretty adequately trained in the home for housekeepers, but this is no longer true. We would not think that a young man should be married until he had learned some trade or profession so that he was capable of making a living and supporting a family. The woman has her trade to learn no less. She needs to know the housewifery arts, to be able to keep accounts, and do the marketing, to care for children and to make her home attractive. This is as much her work as medicine or agriculture is her husband's. In Europe a girl is supposed to have mastered these housewifery arts before her debut in society, but here a very large part of the girls enter upon matrimony absolutely unprepared for all of its duties. The Camp Fire Girls are already giving much of this training, only a little more is needed. The badge or uniform of the Torch-Bearer ought to signify that this girl has mastered the arts that a woman should know and that she is eligible for marriage. If it were so understood it would doubtless add to the popularity of the order. The manual with full directions for the organization of a Camp Fire can be obtained by writing to the headquarters, Gerda Selbelov, secretary, 118 E. 28th street, New York City.

SUMMARY

Many are sure to say by the time they have reached this point, if they really persist so long, that is all very well, but the country girl has much work to do, and she has not time for all these things that have been enumerated. I do not think this is so. All that I have mentioned and more can easily be done in one afternoon and two evenings a week, and every girl should have at least that much for her recreation and social life.

Educational Notes

FROM THE BUREAU OF EDUCATION.

SAVING TIME IN EDUCATION

THERE is a waste of at least two years in the present plan of American education. This is the conclusion reached by a committee of prominent educators in a report on "Economy of Time in Education," just issued by the United States Bureau of Education.

This conclusion follows an investigation lasting nearly 10 years by a committee of the National Education Association, of which President James H. Baker, of the University of Colorado, is chairman. The committee have endeavored to form a plan that would do away with the two-year loss. They propose that 6 years be assigned to the elementary school instead of 8 as at present; that the high-school period be from age 12 to 18, divided into two parts, of four and two years each; that college work extend from 18 to 20, or 16 to 20, according to the method of distributing the last two secondary years; and that graduate or professional work at a university cover the years from 20 to 24. This would enable boys and girls to get ample vocational training after the age of 12; it would enable those who go on to college to get through their college work at the age of 20; and it would save the professional man from having to wait until 27 to start his professional career.

The report insists that the present elementary course is too long; that the ground now covered in 8 years can be covered just as efficiently in 6, allowing secondary work to begin at the age of 12. To save on elementary schooling they urge: "Choose the most important subjects and the most important topics; make a distinction between first-rate facts and principles and tenth-rate. Confine the period of elementary education to mastering the tools of education. Include the last two years of the present elementary school in the period of secondary ed-

ucation and begin the study of foreign language, elementary algebra, constructive geometry, elementary science, and history two years earlier than at present."

Emphasis is laid on the necessity of concentrating on a few valuable studies: "The great mistake of our education is to suppose that quantity and strain constitute education. Education is a question of doing a few essential things well and without overstrain. The college has committed a grievous mistake in demanding ever more in quantity rather than in quality produced under conditions of healthy normal development."

The report takes up the problem of saving time in education from the point of view of the college, the school, and society at large, as well as of the individual pupil; and it contains opinions on every phase of the question from representative school men and the general public.

A ship-building slip is maintained in connection with the high school at San Pedro, Cal., where, under the practical instruction of a nautical architect, the students learn how to build a boat, make and place the engine, and launch and run the craft. Classes in boat-building and marine commerce make trips to the wharves and aboard ship to study ship-construction, engine-action, and the character of the cargoes. Shipping law is also part of the course.

Dr. W. W. Roach, of Philadelphia, advocated an open window room in every city school house where children, whose parents desire it, may be taught with all the benefits accruing to health, happiness and mental development attending lower school room temperatures. His experiments in Philadelphia have proven that the pupils of the open window class rooms

in every particular have the advantage over those children studying in a warm room ventilated in the ordinary way. The pupils were found to gain twice as much as the ordinary warm air pupils, they were more regular in attendance, quicker to learn, free from day dreaming, needed less review work.

NOTES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL
HYGIENE CONGRESS

Dr. Allen J. McLaughlin, of the U. S. Public Health Service, said: "In this country we are prone to overlook the enormous influence of school children upon the hygiene of the home.

The children of the poor, ill-educated parents are often the intermediary through which the simple gospel of hygiene and disease prevention reaches the parents. With an epidemic of contagious disease existing, there is a tendency in most communities to close the schools. In the Philippines, on the contrary, it is the policy of the Bureau to keep schools open because of their extraordinary value in teaching the precepts of disease prevention."

The equivalent of one school year for more than 400 children is lost because of contact with minor contagious diseases, according to figures recently compiled for Pittsburgh.

One, Two, Three

It was an old, old lady,
And a boy who was half-past three;
And the way that they played together
Was beautiful to see.

She couldn't go running and jumping,
And the boy, no more could he,
For he was a thin little fellow,
With a thin little twisted knee.

They sat in the yellow sunlight,
Out under the maple tree;
And the game that they played I'll tell you,
Just as it was told to me.

It was hide-and-go-seek they were playing,
Though you'd never have known it to be—
With an old, old, old, old lady
And a boy with a twisted knee.

The boy would bend his face down
On his one little sound right knee,
And he'd guess where she was hiding,
In guesses One, Two, Three!

"You are in the china closet!"
He would cry and laugh with glee—

It wasn't the china closet;
But he still had Two and Three.

"You are up in papa's big bedroom,
In the chest with the queer old key!"
And she said: "You are warm and warmer,
But you're not quite right," said she.

"It can't be the little cupboard
Where mamma's things used to be—
So it must be the clothespress, gran'ma,"
And he found her with his Three.

Then she covered her face with her fingers,
They were wrinkled and white and wee,
And she guessed where the boy was hiding,
With a One and a Two and a Three.

And they had never stirred from their
places,
Right under the maple tree—
This old, old, old, old lady
And the boy with the lame little knee—
This dear, dear, dear old lady
And the boy who was half-past three.

H. C. BUNNER.

The Mothers' Hour

MRS. MILTON H. BASSETT

AT one time in the history of the Maternal Association the meetings were so much enjoyed that the question arose, "Why not have our meetings every two weeks instead of four?" A special meeting was called to consider the matter, and instead of more *public* meetings, the Mothers' Hour was planned for every day in the year between the hours of nine and ten in the morning, each mother pledging herself to offer special prayers for herself and also remember each other mother in the circle, whispering in the ear of the Infinite Father the names and needs. Now I know that many busy housekeepers and home-makers of to-day will say, "Oh, I cannot spend the time." But consider, please, "Time spent in prayer is never lost," and beside, hands may be busy and the day's work be uninterrupted, if you please, while the heart is uplifted in petitions. "Oh, Father! bless me as a mother," and new plans for the happiness and growth of the children in the home are suggested and worked out. "Oh, Father! bless me as a wife," and the beloved father returning from his busy care and toil finds sweet quiet and loving thought for his comfort. The home is restful for him, and the children trained to welcome the breadwinner with happiness. "Oh, Father! bless me as a daughter," and time is often found in which a letter is written to the absent grandparents, far away perhaps, or some surprise planned to prove how much their love is remembered. "Oh, Father! bless me as a sister," while childhood joys make memories sweet. "Oh, Father! bless me as a neighbor," and during the day a cheery word is given to some one in perplexity or sorrow, or a bit of home cooking sent to a shut-in. "Oh, Father! bless me as a member

of the Church of Christ!" "Oh, Father! bless me as a student," and surely time is found, if but a few minutes, for mind culture and enlargement of vision. "Oh, Father! bless me as a part of the community in which I live," and this mother interests herself in all civic betterments, and the schools have the influence of her co-operative helpfulness. "Oh, Father! bless me in my recreations," and time is surely found during the day for fun and relaxation. "Oh, Father! make me to bring from all these avenues of life rich experiences to help me in the training and fitting of my children for life."

Please don't say, "I cannot spend the time," for if once the *habit* of giving the hour to this subject is formed, it will become a delightfully helpful way to remember the claims of life upon us as mothers, and I believe more real work will be accomplished, more loving letters written, more kindly acts done for neighbors and friends, more interest shown in the special work of the church, more sound views taken and interest gained in municipal affairs of our city schools and courts, and an increasing love for children's playgrounds and gymnasiums and nature studies afoot and afar. In short, since the mother's strength is found in leaning hard on the Eternal God for wisdom and guidance, the children in our homes will be led into pleasant paths and taught how to gain for themselves the joys of living.

And this is why I am exceedingly glad to answer the question, "What is the Mother's Hour?"

There is great gain, too, in the assurance that hundreds of mothers with these common needs seek from the "fountain of undying waters" to quench their thirst.

Department of Child Hygiene

HELEN C. PUTNAM, A.B., M.D., Editor

Public Housekeeping Prizes: The Department offers to Mothers' Clubs of the Congress a First Prize, \$100; Second Prize, \$60; Third Prize, \$40. These are to be awarded in order of excellence for studies of the housekeeping in elementary schools, each study being of three buildings. The right is reserved to award no prize if no study shows sufficient merit. The names of the judges will be announced later. The awards will be announced at the International Child-Welfare Congress in April. All MSS. submitted are to be retained by the judges, and any is liable to be used in this Department to supplement the series on this topic of 1909, 1910, 1911-12 (now in book form, "School Janitors, Mothers and Health," furnished through the Washington Office, 906 Loan and Trust Building). Typewritten MSS. must be in the hands of this editor not later than March 1, 1914.

WORK THAT PAYS

Before the next Magazine comes the Studies in School Housekeeping will be received by this editor. The bettering of school housekeeping may be rated as "work that pays," according to the measurement indicated in the following.

THE class of 1878 at Vassar College in its freshman year after much deliberation chose for its motto, "Arbeit adelt," which, it was explained to those not taking German, means "Work ennobles."

After this important step Seventy-Eight backed up its undertakings as a class, and doubtless many members backed theirs as individuals, with the slogan "Arbeit adelt" in firm confidence that they would "arrive."

But when, four years later, the Baccalaureate Sermon was preached, and President Raymond indicated for the new life about to commence that it is *noble* work that ennobles, not all kinds of work, some of them were startled into searching for standards. They became critical of Goethe's "It is better to do the most trifling thing in the world than to consider a half hour a trifle." Evidently even "trifling things" should be worth while as well as the "half hour."

Mothers clubs are finding so much work to be done that they must choose, for they cannot do it all. They may choose the simple, pleasant work that a year later shows little or nothing of good, or even may show harm and waste of effort. Or they may choose work that pays for a lifetime or for centuries.

We Americans are in real truth suffering for want of some of the kind of work from mothers that lasts long.

It is in the care of children quite impossible to do without this special work, for it is the only way we have of testing our care to learn whether it is wise care or bad.

Other countries do this testing through the facts that the Census collects. We are disgraced among the civilized nations because we have not these facts about our people, our births, deaths, the causes of death and many other details, to compare our progress with theirs, and to improve our deficiencies. We have been very boastful and cocksure about our affairs until, in recent years, the Census has got together many figures along some lines showing that we are inferior to other lands.

Our special wastefulness has been in lands and forests, our "natural resources." Worst of all has been our wastefulness of animal life, and especially of human life. There is no country that allows so many to be killed by accidents or by suicide. Among preventable diseases, such as typhoid fever, which is due largely to polluted water, we rank far below England, which has almost no typhoid.

We are beginning to see that it is our waste of children's lives that is most serious, and to check it we are starting out on many kinds of enterprises for helping children. How are we to know which are good and which are poor methods? There is but one way. It is to get together in every

community the facts concerning all the children, their birth and death, health and illnesses, surroundings, habits, parents. These facts put together, compared and studied in various ways, will guide us to the right ways of caring for children.

Because of our neglect to do this we lose every year billions of dollars and more than a million lives, not alone young lives but older ones, for some of the causes that kill children kill also adults, such as polluted water, unsanitary houses and habits, contagious diseases. This waste cannot continue and a nation prosper. We are at the point where all men and women must take thought and act patriotically with as great vigor as did those of 1776. There is this difference to-day that instead of fighting armies our problem is the care of children—women's business that has been too long neglected.

One example of the value of gathering facts is what we have learned in recent years about babies and bottles,—that a breast-fed baby has seven times the chance for life that a bottle baby has. This means that mothers' clubs must see that all mothers know this, are better cared for before and after the baby comes, and are not obliged to go out to work while the baby needs them. This is not charity. Society owes to mothers even more than to policemen or court officials, soldiers, or governors and presidents, or any other guardians of society, the right education, healthful surroundings and hours of work, care of well-trained physicians and nurses, for the sake of children that will make the society of the future. We have already begun to realize that we owe all this to the children. Now we must work for the mothers, since so many babies can be saved by nursing their mothers. To prove this is worth while in one's own community, first the number of babies that die in proportion to those that are born must be known, so that one can prove whether the effort is really accomplishing what one wants it to accomplish. For if the rate does not improve, then the effort is not strong enough, or not wise enough, or is made

among the wrong people, or is a mistake in some other way. The mothers club is wasting itself.

From publications of the Bureau of the Census we find that in 1880 there were only two states, Massachusetts and Connecticut, and the District of Columbia, with a few cities, in all about one-sixth of our population, that gave reasonably accurate reports of deaths (not births). This was the first little beginning of our "registration area."

Now the Registration Area includes twenty more states, and more cities, containing a little more than half (about five-eighths) of our population. The states not yet reporting deaths with reasonable accuracy are:

Alabama	Kansas
Arizona	Louisiana
Arkansas	Oklahoma
Florida	Oregon
Georgia	Mississippi
The two Dakotas	Nebraska
The two Carolinas	Nevada
The two Virginias	New Mexico
Idaho	Tennessee
Illinois	Texas
Iowa	Wyoming

Mothers' clubs in these states have something important to do in this one matter of registering deaths. One authority a few years ago commented on the awfulness of a government keeping records of live stock, crops, sale of land and all other money transactions, as ours does, yet its being possible for men and women to be born, to rear children as citizens of the country and to die with no record of this anywhere.

And this brings us to the registering of births. This is so poor that in all but eleven states there are, according to the register, more babies under one year of age than are born! Of these eleven, only Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island have births exceeding babies under a year old by ten per cent.; yet it is known that more than ten per cent. of babies die in their first year.

Mothers' clubs must have these records accurate and then work so wisely for saving babies that not more than

seven in a hundred, possibly six in a hundred, shall die, as in New Zealand. So far as we can estimate (or we might use the new word "guesstimate") our best is twice that rate at present. The whole country is fast becoming awake to the wastefulness of working without standardizing our methods by the facts (statistics). Mothers can hasten this possibility. It is really "work that pays" in several senses.

A standing committee on birth registration, of three willing to study local and state work and to report once or twice yearly, perhaps to do the things needing doing, could make every club more useful. The instruction concerning registration and how to induce women to have it complete is found in various pamphlets published by the Bureau of the Census. Write to the Government Printing Office about them.

Beauty As An Educational Force

THERE are so many practical ways in which we can help a child to a love of beauty. We can see that the necessary objects of his everyday life are good and well made. He must learn only good poetry, only good songs must be given him to sing, and good pictures only must be hung on his walls. Our early associations become part of the fibre of our being. They are full of romance and unforgettable. The boy or girl whose mind has been stored with the poetry of Milton and Blake; who has been taught to find delight in the art of former ages and the melodies of Beethoven and Bach, and who has learned to reverence nature in all her myriad forms, will be rich for life, and will have a source of joy that nothing in the world can take away.

The child who has grown up in a beautiful house; who has been used to

soft, low tones and space and simplicity; who knows by heart the dignified lines and fair proportions of well-built furniture, and the rich colors of old damasks and oriental rugs; that child will be unable to live with ugliness when older, and will add his voice to those who demand the better things. It is always possible to make a room a pleasant place, very little money can do it, and there are so many forms that beauty takes.

People are awaking to the effect that surroundings can have upon character. That if you take a man from a slum tenement dwelling and give him a clean, airy house, full of sunshine and well-ventilated, with a little garden of his own around about it, he is almost sure to respond and will try to live up to his surroundings.—*Parents Review*, London.

WANTED, the following numbers of CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE to complete files; 1908, June, 4 copies; 1908, September, 3 copies; 1908, October, 3 copies; 1910, June, 3 copies; 1912, August, 3 copies.

Program for Parent-Teacher Associations for February

The Programs given from month to month require the service of three members of the association for each meeting. They develop home talent, at the same time providing papers of highest value in child-nurture. They ensure a high standard for the season's meetings, and awaken wider interest in child-welfare as the members learn of the movement throughout the world.

FIRST TOPIC (To be read by one member).

EIGHTEEN YEARS WORK FOR CHILD WELFARE.

CHILD WELFARE CAMPAIGN.

INFLUENCE OF MOVING PICTURES ON CHILDREN.

SECOND TOPIC (To be assigned to another member).

WHAT OTHER PARENTS' ASSOCIATIONS ARE DOING.

Information culled from State News.

THIRD TOPIC (To be assigned to third member).

CURRENT NEWS OF WORK FOR CHILD-WELFARE, gleaned from all sources, both local and international.

The National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations also offers a series of Loan Papers for program use. They are type-written. Each series may be kept for the season. The cost is \$2.00. The papers may be assigned to a different member of the association for each meeting. They have been selected to meet the needs of parents and teachers in dealing with problems of child life at different stages of its development. Send to National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, 906 Loan and Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

A list of 25 books suitable for use of parents will be sent to those who desire it. A Circle of 25 members can have a valuable circulating library if each member can buy just one book.

"The Love of Childhood is the tie that should unite us all in holiest purpose."

Child-Welfare Campaign

The National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations is conducting a continuous Campaign in promotion of Child-Welfare.

Much interest has been awakened and a good work already accomplished; but a vast expenditure of time, effort and money is yet necessary to secure to every child the opportunity to develop his highest possibilities.

The Child-Welfare Campaign is a clarion call to wider, increasingly helpful service for childhood the world over.

The co-operation of all fathers and mothers is absolutely essential. The promotion of child welfare requires, also, the co-operation of Governors, Mayors, Educators, the Clergy, the Press and of all organizations and individuals working for the betterment of child life.

Such co-operation has been given generously.

The United States Bureau of Education has created a Home Education Section in compliance with the suggestion of the Mothers' Congress. The Governors of Oregon and Arizona have established Child-Welfare Commissions for the State, and other Governors will soon do so.

The city of Portland, Oregon, has inaugurated a Parents' Educational Bureau in the Court House. It has also placed the Juvenile Court under the auspices of Education rather than under the usual Court.

State Branches of the Congress have made records of great service. Many national organizations have given co-operation, and through these various agencies already established, the purposes of the National Congress of Mothers will be greatly promoted.

THE OBJECTS OF THE CHILD-WELFARE CAMPAIGN ARE:

- Save the Babies.
- Safeguard Boys and Girls.
- Give Youth high Ideals of Marriage and Homemaking.
- Educate Fathers and Mothers in Child Nurture.
- Bring Home, Church, School and State in purposeful co-operation for Child-Welfare.

Carry Mother-love and Mother-wisdom into all that pertains to Childhood.

The National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations desires, also, to secure through its Campaign work:

1. A Parent-Teacher Association in every school for the study of child hygiene and child nurture and for the securing of sympathetic co-operation between home and school.

2. A Parents' Association in every church for the study of character building; for the greater realization of parental responsibility in teaching moral and spiritual truths and for the guidance and development of child life.

3. A Department of Child Hygiene in every Board of Health to safeguard babies' lives, through clear instruction in infant hygiene, through birth registration and through protection of the milk supply.

4. A Child-Welfare Department in City, State and Nation to study conditions affecting childhood and to apply necessary remedies for their amelioration.

February 17, the anniversary of the founding of the National Congress of Mothers, is Child-Welfare Day.

Each Mothers' Circle and Parent-Teacher Association is earnestly requested to arrange a program for that day which shall include the work of the National Mothers' Congress and awaken additional popular interest in the welfare of the child.

A special offering for the National Work should be a feature of the day.

The Congress has no endowment and depends for its support upon the loyal co-operation of its members.

SUGGESTED PROGRAM.

Mrs. Theodore W. Birney's message, as a Founder and Presiding officer, to the first National Congress of Mothers, in Washington, D. C., in 1897.

Origin and the History of the Congress. Aims, Purposes and Methods.

Co-operation secured from fathers and mothers, educators, the Government, the pulpit, the press and from individuals in all walks of life.

Results accomplished in home, school, church and state.

Special work of your own Mothers' Circle or Parent-Teacher Association; its value and plans for the future.

President's Message for 1914.

Offering for the National Congress of Mothers to aid in carrying on its rapidly-growing, marvelous work.

Aids in preparation for Child-Welfare meetings may be found in the Child-Welfare Magazine for February, 1912, Janu-

ary and February, 1913, and the Triennial Handbook, all to be obtained at ten cents each, of Mrs. A. A. Birney, 806 Loan and Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

The Third International Conference on the Welfare of the Child under the auspices of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations is to be held in Washington, D. C., in April, 1914.

Reports from the different States will be given, containing number of new societies organized, new members received and contributions received during the year. Is your State to be the banner State in the awakening of greater interest and endeavor in the Child-Welfare Campaign?

Increased membership in the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations is much desired for the enlargement and usefulness of the work.

Three dollars (\$3.00) a year will give associate membership in National and State organization, and a subscription to the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE.

The CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE is a necessary and valuable medium of communication between the National Mothers' Congress and the Mothers' Circles and Parent-Teacher Associations in all the States. It contains articles written by specialists in child nurture and has a message for all who have the care of children.

How many new members, both men and women, and how many subscriptions will your State secure before the International Triennial Conference in 1914?

Send names of members to National Congress of Mothers, Loan and Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

Send subscriptions to CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE, 227 South Sixth Street, Philadelphia.

The National Congress of Mothers, through personal interest and experience, is qualified to deal with problems of childhood in the home and outside the home.

Each Circle and Parent-Teacher Association is an important part of the Congress with which it is affiliated, and its loyal, helpful assistance is necessary for the fullest development and efficiency of the great national organization.

Each member is a constituent part of the Congress and has an influence in enabling the Congress to extend its vital work and to meet the demands made upon it.

Will each organization and each individual co-operate earnestly and enthusiastically to make February 17 a day of inspiration, and the whole year one of marked progress for Child-Welfare in home, church, school and State?

Cordially yours,

MRS. DAVID O. MEARS,

Chairman Child-Welfare Campaign.

The president and vice-presidents of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, with the president and treasurer of each State Congress, constitute the Child-Welfare Campaign Committee.

In Memoriam

HELEN GRINNELL MEARS

IN the death of Miss Helen G. Mears the National Congress of Mothers has lost one of its most loved members and helpers. At many of the conventions her wonderful contralto voice has been enjoyed. No one who heard her sing "I Know that My Redeemer Liveth" when the Congress met in Denver, can forget the inspiration she gave to the large audience. At the National Congress in Boston all the musical program was arranged by her.

In Gloucester, Mass., in October, her singing is one of the beautiful memories of that state convention. Ever ready and interested to do all in her power to help, she gave promise of great service in the work of the Congress in years to come. She was her mother's companion and helper all through the years of her life. Rev. and Mrs. David O. Mears, her father and mother, will have the heartfelt sympathy of their many friends in their bereavement.

A beautiful, unselfish life here has ended. Before life's inevitable trials had cast their shadow on her sunny, joyous spirit her Father called her to the home above, where He has a place and a work for each one.

Aims and Purposes of National Congress of Mothers

- To raise the standards of home life. To develop wiser, better-trained parenthood.
- To give young people, ignorant of the proper care and training of children, opportunities to learn this, that they may better perform the duties of parenthood.
- To bring into closer relations the home and the school, that parent and teacher may co-operate intelligently in the education of the child.
- To surround the childhood of the whole world with that loving, wise care in the impressionable years of life, that will develop good citizens, instead of lawbreakers and criminals.
- To carry the mother-love and mother-thought into all that concerns or touches childhood in Home, School, Church, State or Legislation.
- To interest men and women to co-operate in the work for purer, truer homes, in the belief that to accomplish the best results, men and women must work together.
- To secure such legislation as will ensure that children of tender years may not be tried in ordinary courts, but that each town shall establish juvenile courts and special officers, whose business it shall be to look out for that care which will rescue, instead of confirm the child in evil ways.
- To work for such probationary care in individual homes rather than institutions.
- To rouse the whole community to a sense of its duty and responsibility to the blameless, dependent and neglected children, because there is no philanthropy which will so speedily reduce our taxes, reduce our prison expenses, reduce the expense of institutions for correction and reform.
- The work of the Congress is civic work in its broadest and highest sense, and every man or woman who is interested in the aims of the Congress is cordially invited to become a member and aid in the organized effort for a higher, nobler national life, which can only be attained through the individual homes.

EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

Dr. M. V. O'SHEA, Madison, Wis.
Mrs. ORVILLE T. BRIGHT, 6515 Harvard Ave.,
Chicago, Ill., Vice-Chairman.
Miss GERTRUDE VAN HOESEN, Chicago University.
Prof. A. CASWELL ELLIS, Houston, Texas.
Prof. WM. A. McKEEVER, Manhattan, Kansas.
President H. L. WHITFIELD, Columbus, Miss.
President E. A. FAIRCHILD, Durham, N. H.

Miss NAOMI NORWORTHY, Columbia University.
President ANNA J. McKEAG, Wilson College, Penna.
Prof. CHARLES McMURRAY, DeKalb, Ill.
Dr. ROBERT N. WILLSON, Philadelphia, Pa.
Mrs. MARY D. BRADFORD, Kenosha, Wisconsin.
Prof. EDWARD ST. JOHN, Hartford, Conn.
Prof. E. A. KIRKPATRICK, Fitchburg, Mass.

State News

IMPORTANT NOTICE

News items from the States must be in the hands of the editorial board by the tenth of the previous month to ensure their appearance in the next magazine. The editorial board earnestly asks the attention of every press chairman to the necessity of complying with this rule.

CALIFORNIA

Important Actions Taken by California Executive Board at Berkeley—Executive Board of the California Congress

The Board has requested each association in California to subscribe for at least one copy of the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE for its president; also to state that we are asking the librarians of the various State Normal Schools to place the MAGAZINE in their libraries, and magazine chairmen to see the magazine placed in all libraries. The Corresponding Secretary was asked to

write to State Normal librarians as above. Magazine chairmen please note above recommendation.

The President reported the University Extension correspondence course on "Proper Foods for Children" nearly ready for use.

In compliance with a request from the Pasadena Federation a motion was carried that the Board arrange this year for a three-day annual convention instead of two days as heretofore.

The President stated that associations desiring to hear Mrs. Fenton, the National

Lecturer on "Good Roads," this month are requested to communicate with State Superintendent Hyatt.

The forty-seventh annual convention of the State Teachers' Association of the Bay district met in Oakland, December 29, for a four-day conference.

On the first day of the convention the executive board of the California Congress of Mothers gave a reception at Hotel Oakland in honor of several of its members who were in attendance as delegates. The guests of honor were Dr. O'Shea, who is national chairman of education for the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers' Association, and Dr. Margaret E. Schallenberger, head of the training department of the San Jose State Normal School. Mrs. H. N. Rowell of Berkeley, State President of the California Congress of Mothers, was the head of the reception committee.

Our new State Chairman of Education, Dr. Margaret E. Schallenberger, spoke briefly of the ideals of mothers and of teachers regarding the welfare of children.

Mrs. H. N. Rowell has sent a letter to the Parent-Teacher Associations and Mothers' Clubs of California full of valuable suggestions concerning the work.

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT OF CALIFORNIA
CONGRESS OF MOTHERS.

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, October, 1913.

To the Parent-Teacher Associations and Mothers' Clubs of the California Congress of Mothers:

DEAR FRIENDS AND CO-WORKERS:

Owing to the fact that hundreds of our members are new in the work, this letter is sent, with the sanction of the State Executive Board, to be read at a regular meeting of your association and to be kept for future reference. It is hoped it may be a real help, especially to the newly organized association.

It should always be remembered that ours is:

First a child-welfare organization, and that however alluring other work may be we should confine our activities to our own special field. No more important work could engage our efforts than that bearing upon the welfare of children. It is fundamental; it is far-reaching in its results; it involves the highest and most patriotic motives.

The National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations of which the California Congress of Mothers is a branch,

is the largest organization in the world working solely for child-welfare. Its influence has extended beyond our borders, and every three years its conventions are international. These are held in Washington, D. C., and national officers are there elected for a three-year term. Other annual conventions are held in different parts of the country; that of 1915 will be in Portland, Oregon, and a special Conference will be held that year in San Francisco. The Exposition management will do all in its power to make this conference a success.

The California Congress is the largest branch of the National Congress, having more than 300 associations and over 8,000 members. These are only members who paid their annual dues last year. If every association were careful to send in dues for all members, our membership would be much greater.

It is hoped that every association will enlarge its membership and harmonize its work with that of the State and National, so that in 1915 when we shall be hostesses to the National and world delegates, we shall feel ourselves a very vital part of the great organization and be ready, not only to extend a true California welcome, but to do a large share in making this conference a power for good to the children of this and other lands.

To increase the membership, every association must have a membership committee, who shall be in communication with Federation, District or State chairmen on Membership to learn effective methods of work. Above all, this committee must be well-informed regarding the objects of the Congress. If these objects be clearly presented there will be no difficulty in getting both men and women to join the organization. Some who cannot attend meetings will join as associate members this year. Every association is asked to secure at least two such members this year. The fee is \$3.00 per year. This entitles the payer to representation in the State and National Congresses, to the literature, and to a subscription to the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE.

Active members of associations pay, besides their own association dues, fifteen cents yearly; five cents of this goes to the district, five cents to the state, and five cents to the national treasury.

Association dues are usually 25 or 50 cents a year.

CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE.

The CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE is our official organ. Every organization should

subscribe for it for its president. She can hardly be informed in regard to the work without it. With it, an association need never be at a loss for a program, for it contains articles and suggestions from the best authorities on child nurture, and has news of the work throughout the whole country. The price is one dollar per year. Every earnest parent should read it. It would prove a real help in many of the problems every parent must meet. Subscriptions should be sent to National Congress of Mothers, 906 Loan and Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

The National Congress will have ready in December a publication called "Parents and Their Problems," in eight volumes. The price is fifteen dollars, installment plan, to make it easy for associations to acquire it, and it is hoped these books will meet a real need.

No work done by our Congress is of more importance than that of the Home Economics section. This considers all subjects pertaining to the welfare of the child in the home. The work is often carried on, as recommended by the state chairmen in reading circles.

These usually meet in homes. At the regular meeting at the school house, the association decides upon a subject for the reading. One member invites the association to meet at her house, perhaps two weeks from that day. The chairman has selected a book from our book-list. If it is not in the local library, the librarian will send to the State Library at Sacramento for it. The hostess is privileged to invite her friends and neighbors and takes pains to invite the mothers of young children, providing some one to care for the little ones, if necessary. One or two persons do the reading; the others have their hand-sewing; often the darning and mending are saved for this afternoon. Discussion of the topic follows the reading; usually a cup of tea is served. It is found that these meetings are productive of lasting good.

We hope every association will take up the reading circle plan this year, and report number of meetings, and subjects considered and attendance to the next higher chairman on Home Economics.

The United States Bureau of Education, recognizing the value of parental education, has added a department on Home Education. Our National President, Mrs. Frederic Schoff, is a collaborator in this office, with the assistance of the national corresponding secretary. As there is at present no appropriation for this depart-

ment, the National Congress has undertaken to supply the office force. Mrs. Schoff writes: "No money that the State could expend would yield richer returns." If the work of this office can be carried on successfully for one year, a strong demand will be made for a government appropriation. On account of this splendid prospect, the President of the California Congress urges every association in our state to rise to the occasion and when Founders' Day is observed, send at least five dollars for the National treasury.

Founders' Day or Child Welfare Day, is February 17 (or as near that date as practicable). The National Congress is sending literature in regard to this day for 1914. Let every association make it a special occasion with a view to arousing the public interest in child welfare, and to raising a fund to carry on local, State and national work.

Our constitution provides for a chairman on extension, *i.e.*, one who will devote her time and efforts toward organizing new associations. As no one has been found who could fill this position without pay, and as no funds are provided for a paid organizer, the State Board has ruled that every president be responsible for extension work in her own territory.

In order to develop system and efficiency in our work, the state is divided into districts. The number of associations has become so great that it is impossible for state officers to communicate with individual associations. In order to facilitate intercommunication between the head and all its branches, National officers communicate with state officers, the state with the district officers, the district with the federation officers and the federation officers with those of the individual associations in its membership. Thus reports, information, moneys, notices, and all communications may rapidly and surely reach their destination without undue hardship to any officer. As there are no paid officers, this equalizing of the work is necessary. So it is asked that all associations will remember in sending district, state and national dues, to send the money to the Federation treasurer (or financial secretary if there be one). If not in a federation, then to the District financial secretary (or treasurer, if there be no financial secretary). Those associations not in a district will have to communicate direct with state officers, until a district is organized. Any twelve associations may apply to be organized into a district. In localities having practically the same prob-

lems, the district should be as large and influential as possible.

A city federation president will use her best efforts to have all the schools in her city organized and a part of the federation. The president of that district will confine her efforts to localities where no federations exist. All should be supplied with Application for Membership blanks, and the little book, "How to Organize," and the Triennial Handbook. Also copies of the Model Constitution recommended by the State Executive Board.

Every association should aim as far as possible to have the departments of work of the State Congress. Where it is found that this cannot be done, the executive board of the association should consider the work of the different departments and bring such matters before the members at regular meetings as may seem practicable.

In addition to committees on membership and Home Economics and CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE every association should have a committee of at least one member on Playgrounds. This member should be prepared at every meeting to give some item of interest on her subject. If no other source of information be available the association might subscribe for the *Playground Magazine* for the chairman of this committee. Literature may be obtained by writing the Playground Association, No. 1 Madison Avenue, New York City.

KINDERGARTEN OPPORTUNITIES IN CALIFORNIA.

There should be at least one member on a kindergarten committee who should make herself thoroughly familiar with her subject. As the California Congress is pledged to the cause of Kindergartens, the association members should be well-informed on the subject.

During the last legislative session, a bill framed by the legislative committee of our Congress, was with some amendments passed and became a law on August 10th, 1913. This law provides that in any school district in this state, the Board of Education or the Board of School Trustees must establish a kindergarten in the public school, provided the parents or guardians of 25 children between the ages of four and a half and six years of age and living within one mile of the school, petition the Board to do so.

It is advised that petitions be presented as soon as possible so as to give Boards of Education ample time to provide rooms for kindergarten purposes where there are

none. Boards are given until next year, between June first and August first, to add the necessary expense to the school budget. The chairman on Kindergarten of each association should become familiar with the status of the kindergarten in her locality, in the state and in the whole country; she should see that a petition is sent to the School Trustees asking for a kindergarten, provided there are 25 children in her school district waiting to be taught. Here it is advised that the association write to the office of the State Board of Education for the leaflet regarding the open air school building, recommended by Mr. Hyatt, which can be built for \$500.

JUVENILE COURTS AND MOTHERS' PENSIONS

Every association should have a committee of at least one on Juvenile Court and Probation. She should study the juvenile court law, inform herself regarding probation work in her own city or county, and bring to the association information on her subject. All these committees may receive help by consulting the higher chairmen in federation or district.

The chairman on Children's Home (child dependency) should bring to the meetings information concerning the orphanages of the state, the work of those agencies licensed by the State Board of Charities to place homeless and dependent children in family homes; she should understand the Mothers' Pension law and its operation, and be ready to suggest to her association such co-operation as may be needed in these matters.

There should be a legislative committee of one to bring information regarding the laws in general, that relate to women and children; she should be provided with a copy of the laws (printed for us last year by the state printing office) and be able to tell what new laws have been passed and what measures are being asked for by the Congress and other Women's Clubs.

The Literature Committee takes charge of our book-lists and as these are for children as well as parents it is suggested that they be sold to school children, so that they will have a guide to help them in selecting their reading. This chairman, too, could confer with Boards of Library Trustees and ask that our books be placed in the public libraries as fast as possible. The book-lists may be obtained at five cents per copy by writing the State Corresponding Secretary.

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE.

The Emergency Committee of one or two members is appointed to visit homes

where the teacher may suspect that some help is needed. Often on account of illness or because the father is out of work, the mother finds it difficult properly to clothe the children for school. All members of the association are asked to give any discarded garments that are clean and whole, shoes or garments that could be made over. The committee reports the number of garments given, but never makes personal mention of those helped. The aim is to render kindly aid in emergencies, in a sisterly spirit, but not to encroach upon the work of Charity Associations.

COUNTRY LIFE.

Our State Chairman of Rural Life and Good Roads, Mr. A. L. Hamilton, has received word from the Government that a lecturer will be sent to California in December. Any Parent-Teacher Association may by conferring with the office of the State Board of Education at Sacramento and the County Superintendent of Schools, make arrangements to have this lecturer, Mrs. Katherine J. Fenton. If an illustrated lecture is desired it will be necessary to furnish a stereopticon lantern and operator. These lectures are of great interest, showing how general conditions improve where good roads are built.

Our Department of Education has as its state chairman, Dr. Margaret E. Schallenberger, of the San Jose State Normal School. The plans of our National Chairman, Dr. O'Shea, of Wisconsin University, will be submitted to the State Chairman, and she will send them with suggestions of her own to the individual associations, through the district officers.

Every association should have a reception committee to meet and welcome strangers and visitors.

The practice of having the children give a short program of singing, reciting, folk dancing or other exercises presenting the every day school work is very interesting to parents and increases attendance.

The most successful Parent-Teacher Association is usually the one where the teachers attend the meetings and extend a welcome to the mothers. It is a mistake to ask teachers who are often overworked, to fill offices or serve on committees. But by attending meetings the teacher has the opportunity every good teacher wants, to learn something of the home life and former training of her pupils. Teachers of a school should confer among themselves and decide just what things are most needed

for the welfare of the children and should bring suggestions to the association.

No teacher can do her best work in large classes. Fairness to the teacher and justice to the child demand that classes be smaller than they generally are. This means greater school revenue. Parent-Teacher Associations have the opportunity to educate the public in regard to this matter, and should unitedly work to this end.

RECREATION AND AMUSEMENT

The subject of Recreation and Amusement for the young is one that should have the careful thought of every Parent-Teacher Association. If possible a committee should take this work; if not, the Board should consider it. Close to that of recreation is that of pleasant and useful occupation out of school hours. Here home and school gardening may be considered; also extension of manual training and domestic science.

In city and country the public dance is recognized as being a dangerous diversion, as often conducted. It has been proposed that for some localities a school dance managed by a committee of parents, teachers and students may be the only solution of a difficult problem.

This matter was the subject of one of the few resolutions passed by the National Congress at the May Convention. Those resolutions, as they referred to the work of state congresses, were briefly as follows:

That we use our utmost endeavors to have the kindergarten made a part of the public school system;

That we combat the social evil by asking parents to study the best methods of teaching young children lessons regarding the transmission of life and reproduction; 2. That they give older children the instruction necessary for their protection; 3. That parents set the same standard of purity for the youth of both sexes.

That we urge upon parents the importance of knowing the proper food for children, the facts concerning the harmful effects of over-refinement and adulteration of food, and the necessity of the sanitary handling of food.

That parents be urged to provide suitable forms of recreation and amusement in home and community and that they discourage in every possible way degrading forms of dancing and all unwholesome and suggestive amusements and entertainments.

That mothers be asked seriously to consider the effect of immodesty in dress, and use their influence to induce school girls

and women to adopt modest and becoming styles of dress for all occasions.

These resolutions, carefully considered, will furnish ample material for programs and good work for the whole year.

Very cordially,

MRS. H. N. ROWELL,

President California Congress of Mothers.

P. S.—The National Corresponding Secretary has asked that we send her at once the names of all of our Associations with the names and addresses of the president and secretary of each.

May I ask that every association secretary will send a list of your officers to your federation? That every federation secretary send a list for your federation to the district corresponding secretary; that each district corresponding secretary send the names of all associations and names of officers and their addresses to the State Corresponding secretary? Associations not in Federations send to State Corresponding Secretary.

The work cannot be properly carried on unless this is done.

Please do it NOW.

COLORADO

The Denver Section had a full and fruitful meeting when Dr. Laurence W. Cole, Professor of Psychology of the State University, addressed them upon the subject of the Physical and Mental Activities of the Child. The general tone of the lectures given this year tend toward a course in child-study, which would make an excellent outline for university extension work.

Mrs. Warwick Downing, President of the Denver branch, is continually upon the alert for those things which will instruct and elevate our mothers and at the same time, give them sufficient entertainment to draw and hold an audience.

One of Mrs. Downing's unwritten laws is that simplicity of dress of the officers should set an example to the members in order that no one may feel underdressed or uncomfortable and that the poorest mother may be assured she is not in a company who criticize or who make her unwelcome because of appearance.

Much has been quoted in our state papers as to the decided stand taken by our organization upon the simplicity of school girls' dress. Our resolutions to the State Teachers' Convention embraced this recommendation and asked for the co-operation and example of the teachers. It is a pleasure to note that there seems to be a

desire, upon the part of our educators, to do all they can to aid us in the effort we are making in this matter.

Our association was extraordinarily fortunate in securing Mrs. Katherine Oliver McCoy, the Scottish Reader, to present to us, and the public generally, Percy MacKaye's famous eugenics drama, "To-morrow."

The classes in "The Responsibility of Motherhood," which are being conducted by Mrs. Anna Noble, are better attended at each meeting and prove the need of schools for mothers.

The Educational Committee, Mrs. Jeanette Bolles, Chairman, is systematically taking a subject each month and getting reports upon it from each school president and representative. This will result in a bettering of general conditions. The topic of the last meeting was "School Playgrounds." The reports and inquiries induced much discussion which brought out the common and individual needs in that line.

Throughout the state, the good work goes on apace.

Not the least gratifying report at the last State board meeting was that which came from a small village asking for Mothers' Congress aid in forming parent and teachers' circles and showing that the way was pointed out by County and State superintendents at the instance of the National Bureau of Education. Mrs. Mary C. C. Bradford, State Superintendent of Public Instruction of Colorado, is keenly alive to the benefits accruing from the co-operation of parent and teacher and misses no opportunity to weld the union more closely. In fact the larger opportunities resulting upon such hand-in-hand work is daily growing upon our educators. It is indeed a genuine joy to see the hearty co-operation Mrs. Dick, our State president, is receiving in her endeavors to extend the labors of the organization. We can not but expand upon this phase of the work in the hope it may help to blaze the trail for other States newer in the attempt.

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut Branch of the Mothers' Congress Admits All Presidents of Associations as Members of State Board—Annual Convention Will Meet in East Hartford April 30 and May 1—Victor-Victrola Presented to School in Waterbury

The bi-monthly executive board meeting of the Connecticut Congress of Mothers for

Child-Welfare met on November 18 at Hotel Elton, Waterbury, Conn, at twelve o'clock, with luncheon at one o'clock and an afternoon business session from two to four P.M., with thirty-seven members present.

The plan of having the presidents of clubs members of the executive board is unique but has proved of great value to the work in Connecticut. All the presidents cannot attend all the board meetings but each one may occasionally, particularly as the board meetings are held at different cities. The next meeting will be in January at Hartford; the March meeting will be held in New Haven. At the meeting in Waterbury the new Year Books will be distributed, one to each member of the board, and one will be sent to each of the presidents who were absent.

The Year Book has proved valuable in promoting the Child-Welfare work in the State. Credit is due Mrs. E. J. Naramore, of Bridgeport, and Mrs. J. A. Traut, of New Britain, who made the publishing of the book possible by giving the necessary money, and to others who in different ways contributed to the success of the first Year Book in Connecticut.

The annual meeting will be at East Hartford, at the Congregational Church, and a very attractive programme is being planned by the committee in charge, Mrs. Levi C. Taylor, Hartford, chairman. As this meeting is to be the last day of April and first day of May—a two days' session and an evening banquet—it will be after the National meeting in Washington, and it is expected to be full of interest, as many delegates who will be in Washington will give reports at the State meeting for the benefit of those who do not attend the National. The date of the National is April 22-27, and a large number are planning to attend.

The president of the Connecticut branch has been in great demand to speak on subjects pertaining to child-welfare at the various clubs and many other organizations in the State. Much interest is aroused by holding evening meetings and inviting the parents—both men and women. At such a meeting of the Bunker Hill School, Waterbury, in December, the women's clubs of the neighborhood presented the school with a Victor-Victrola. Great appreciation of the gift was expressed by the principal, Mrs. Annie Beach. A fine musical programme by the children of the school, followed by several solos by good musicians, were features of interest.

After an address by the State President, Mrs. B. L. Mott, on Child Hygiene, and the presenting of the Victrola, refreshments were served, and all declared a better community feeling because of the social centre use of the school building.

Oakville in Watertown held an evening meeting on the 9th of January, attended by many school people, preparing the way for more parent-teacher associations in the town.

ILLINOIS

ILLINOIS CONGRESS OF MOTHERS AND PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS.

Mrs. L. D. Doty transferred her duties to the Chicago Vice-president, Mrs. Blodgett. Mrs. Doty's address will be, until May 1, at 517 South Flower Street, Los Angeles, California.

Conditions developed relative to the Public Schools of Chicago which called for very earnest consideration on the part of every one interested in child-welfare and the schools. At no other time perhaps, has the attention of the patrons of the public schools in Chicago and the State been so directly challenged as when Dr. Ella Flagg Young, Superintendent of the Public Schools of Chicago, felt impelled to withdraw her name as a candidate for re-election. Subsequent developments led to the re-election of Mrs. Young, and also, through the press, a discussion of the relative demerits and merits of our schools. Feeling that there was a very serious lack of knowledge of the progressive and sound policies which had been introduced and were being carried out under Mrs. Young's administration, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by the Board of the Illinois Congress.

"Whereas, The Public Schools of Chicago have, under the supervision of Dr. Ella Flagg Young, made great progress in educational efficiency, and whereas,

"Recent attacks upon the Public Schools of Chicago have shown entire lack of familiarity with the schools as they are, therefore be it resolved,

"That we, the Board of Managers of the Illinois Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, having been for years in close relation with the schools, do now in regular session assembled, most earnestly and strongly endorse the work done by Dr. Young, Superintendent of Schools, during her administration, and ask that the present educational policies be continued."

The board, at this meeting, was most

signally honored by having Mrs. Young and her secretary, Miss Brayton, as guests during the hour of luncheon.

MEETING OF PARENT-TEACHER SECTION OF THE ILLINOIS STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Parent-Teacher Section of the Illinois State Teachers' Association, which convened in Springfield in December, under the chairmanship of Mrs. William B. Owen, had a most successful and interesting luncheon and meeting. The luncheon was attended by two hundred and ninety people, and was under the auspices of the Parent-Teacher Associations of Springfield. Talks were given by Senator McGill, Superintendent of Schools, and other speakers representing the woman's clubs, the schools and the churches.

At the meeting of this Parent-Teacher Section, the teaching of Social Purity was the main topic discussed, and two hundred people listened to the following:

The Home and School, Dr. William B. Owen, President Chicago Teachers' College; Some Results from Lectures on Personal Purity, Dr. Bertha Van Hoesen, Chicago; Ideal Attitude of Schools Towards Sex Hygiene, Prof. Packard, Bradley Institute, Peoria; Enforced Attitude of Poorer Homes Towards Sex Hygiene, Miss Sears, Secretary Woman's City Club, Chicago.

Mrs. William B. Owen, Chicago, was re-elected Chairman of the Parent-Teacher Section; Mrs. Orville T. Bright, Chicago, Vice-chairman, and Mrs. Stuart Brown, Springfield, Secretary.

IOWA

Des Moines City Union of Mothers' Clubs Emphasizes Necessity of Keeping Associations on a Distinct Educational Basis—Thirty-two Mothers' Clubs in Des Moines

TO THE PRESIDENTS OF THE DES MOINES PARENT-TEACHERS ORGANIZATION.

Our Des Moines City Union of Mothers' Clubs was organized about twelve years ago to act as a council for the local parent-teachers' organizations. It was deemed expedient that the presidents and their co-workers in the various local clubs, newly elected each year, should advise and be advised regarding the purposes and policies advanced by the parent organization, which is the National Congress of Mothers.

There are now thirty-two clubs in this local federation whose representatives meet

on the third Tuesday of each month at 2.30 P.M. in the city library.

This union annually elects a president and officers with the thought of selecting nearby leaders who are familiar with the purposes of the National Congress of Mothers and of its Iowa branch.

These thirty-two clubs pay dues to the State organization of ten cents per capita, the amount to be divided equally with the National organization. The dues of the City Union are not compulsory, each club paying whatever amount it elects.

The instruction to these thirty-two clubs given by the experienced officers of this union, and also the valuable council of the thirty-two presidents, relates entirely to the home and school. Each president delegate is advised to take home to her individual club that which she finds meets the particular need of her locality.

Our Iowa branch of the National Congress of Mothers is affiliated as a department in the Iowa State Teachers' Association and thereby keeps informed concerning State and national educational subjects.

The National Congress of Mothers has a distinct purpose for existence. In brief, its object is to raise the standards of home-life in every particular; to study school conditions; to extend to these schools helpful, intelligent co-operation and particularly to see that children are sent to school in a fit condition to take advantage of the opportunities offered. It is prepared to furnish suggestions for the conduct of these co-operative clubs; to furnish outlines of programs. It has typewritten loan papers carefully prepared for the especial needs of clubs where speakers cannot be obtained on these approved subjects. The City Union has no difficulty in furnishing special speakers for its clubs on the subjects selected. The members of the City Union are urged in their council to present subjects for deliberation or give advice on all pertinent questions for the individual or general good.

Each president of the thirty-two clubs has recently received a letter from a new Des Moines organization calling itself the "School Betterment Committee." This letter contained a recommended program for the use of our clubs.

The officers of the City Union wish to call the attention of our presidents to the fact that this valuable program outline does not point to a subject that has not, for years, been presented to us by our National and State Congress, and also by our City Union through its printed "Suggestions of

Subjects for Parent-Teachers' Meetings." The City Union may, if it so desires, at its December meeting, vote to secure from the National Congress of Mothers a very exhaustive booklet of detailed instruction concerning this matter of programs, a booklet which also fully sets forth the scope of the Mothers' Congress philosophy and outlines for its fullest development.

The entire body of this Congress of Mothers is a non-political organization, and is co-operative in its policies. Therefore, it cannot be affiliated, or permit affiliation, with the "School Betterment Committee" whose purposes are pronouncedly of a political nature.

In May, 1913, this "School Betterment Committee" brought with it to our City Union Council a body of sympathizers with the request that our Union endorse three candidates, selected and approved by them, to be elected as new members of our School Board. A motion to that effect did not carry.

There are no political questions concerning our schools at present before the people, and so this "School Betterment Committee" is active through letters and proffered programs to our presidents, to relate itself to our thirty-two clubs, with the purpose of converting them into avenues for future political activities, and to that end this organization presumes to dictate to us new policies. Else why do they attack us if not to use us? This matter has been most carefully considered by your officers and it is most apparent that we have work of our own to do. We are sufficiently instructed by our larger organization to do this work. We do not want to become disrupted by discussions that surely lead to differences. We do not admit of differences with our school authorities. Our experiences have proven good results in co-operation with our school teachers, our school principals, our city superintendent, and our school board. We are working, and have always worked most harmoniously, and each individual worker can cite good accomplished in all the lines of our activity. Our part of the work might be illustrated by the little tug boat that brings the stately ship into harbor.

We would most respectfully ask that our presidents be not disturbed by factious clamors but appreciate the advantages in our co-operative work, that they adhere to the methods that have so long proven good, that they appreciate the opportunity to which they have been elected—that of extending into the homes of the busy

mothers of their neighborhoods inspiration, hope, courage, education. Truly the homes are the havens of our great commonwealth. Let us use our privilege to better these homes.

MRS. WALTER S. BROWN,
President of City Union of Mothers'
Clubs and Member of Executive
Board.

MASSACHUSETTS

Many Parent-Teacher Associations of Massachusetts Report Their Work

Andover Mothers' Club:

Very active; 10 meetings held during past year. A sale and entertainment added \$81 to their funds. At each meeting a penny collection is taken to provide flowers for sick members.

Prizes of money and books have been given to school children for excellence in their studies, and much improvement noticed.

The following contributions to help along other good work, were made:

\$25 to High School Athletic Association,

\$25 to Summer School Work.

\$15 to District Nurse Fund,
Christmas Baskets contributed.

At each meeting a committee is appointed to visit schools and so keep in touch with school work.

Bedford Association, 70 members:

Much originality and enthusiasm shown, as a result of a lecture on "Gardening for Children." Thirty dollars were donated by the Association and Home Gardening engaged in by the children, and extended to the school grounds, which are a great credit to them. Demonstration of labor-saving devices in the home and of the Montessori and kindergarten methods have been very illuminating. By giving various kinds of entertainments, the association has been able to give, all told, \$110 to the schools for play apparatus, reference books and gardens. Helpful magazines and books have been circulated among members, and a Friendship Committee quietly investigates and helps needy families.

Ballardvale Mothers' Club, 25 members:

Through our teachers, we keep in close touch with the schools, hold meetings regularly, have a speaker and discussions. A "Father's Night" was very well attended.

Cohasset Parent-Teacher Association, 87 members:

The Society protested against films

shown at the moving picture show, on Saturday afternoons, to the children, and feel sure that these will be improved or discontinued. Advocated a safe and sane Fourth of July; endorsed the Widow's Pension Bill and worked constantly for closer relations between home and school.

Gloucester, Myrtle Parent-Teacher Association, 120 members:

Very enthusiastic and active. Raise money by sales, etc. Gave \$15 to school library, also a piano. A new fence paid for. Subscription to CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE. \$3.00 for Child-Welfare Campaign. Paid expenses of delegates to convention. Gave children car-ride and picnic; also sent flowers to sick members and friends. The Association hopes to interest more fathers when they have hall and new school building for a meeting place.

East Gloucester, 125 members:

Meetings held regularly are well attended. Annual theatricals added \$50 to treasury. Emergency boxes were supplied to schools. 619 packages of seeds given out to children, and at an exhibition in September, prizes were awarded.

Gloucester:

Formed a central advisory board, consisting of all the officers of the seven Parent-Teacher Associations of the City, to meet for mutual helpfulness and co-operation in regard to matters pertaining to the schools and homes.

Gloucester, Collins Parent-Teacher Association, 221 members:

Have held meetings monthly, with literary and musical program, and refreshments.

Obtained garden tools for the school children in the spring, and in September held a creditable exhibition of the flowers, fruit and vegetables which they raised.

Protested against unsightly bill-boards in the city and sent resolution to all the other Gloucester associations.

Are helping to introduce District Nursing into the schools. Our Collins school raised \$40 for this object by giving entertainments.

Many mothers look forward to these meetings as their only recreation and are becoming more intelligent in the care of their homes and children.

Cherry Valley, 80 members:

Meetings held monthly are well attended.

Twenty-five dollars spent for baseballs and bats for children; forty dollars for delegates to National Convention.

Picnic for children, three copies of CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE, taken by Association, flowers for sick and shut-ins, furnished by Association. A school savings bank system is maintained very successfully.

Danvers Mothers' Club:

A young society but very enthusiastic about the advantages and opportunities such a club offers for the exchange of ideas concerning the welfare of children.

Hull and Nantasket, 100 members.

A comparatively new society, well-supported by the Superintendent of Schools, School Board, Teachers and Parents.

An entertainment held during the summer netted \$70, which was given to a widow with two children.

It is expected that this society will accomplish much during the coming year.

Holyoke, Springdale Parent-Teacher Association, 40 members:

Great interest shown in meetings, which are held once a month, a social hour and music being enjoyed.

Lynn, Chatham Street Parent-Teacher Association, 54 members.

Meetings held regularly once a month are made as interesting and attractive as possible.

Fifty dollars were realized at an entertainment and it was voted to give a picture to each schoolroom. Fifty dollars was spent for shrubs and trees for the school yard. Flowers are sent to sick members and to schools, from time to time. The children were given an outing, and the members feel that they are a power for good in the community.

Manchester, By The Sea:

For various reasons there is not the need here for just the kind of work that exists in most places; but the Parent-Teacher Association brings to the attention of its members some of the largest phases of welfare work for children, and, by co-operation with the Horticultural Society, have helped in school gardening work the past season.

Over 150 children have been interested and many have won prizes.

North Adams, Johnson School, 54 members: An enthusiastic association, planning a big winter's work and hoping for a large increase in membership.

North Adams, Mark Hopkins School, 51 members:

This association is very successful in bringing together the parents and teachers, and an unique entertainment was the exhibition of the children engaged in Manual Training work.

Leicester, 100 members:

Meetings held monthly from October to May, one meeting each year being in charge of the fathers.

\$82 paid a teacher of basketry for the children.

\$10 for Christmas tree.

Entertainments, sales and teas are held, adding funds to the treasury. Through efforts of a committee appointed at one of their meetings a new school building is being erected at a cost of \$37,000.

Rochdale, 20 members:

This association has taken a new lease of life, and at an entertainment and dance given the past season \$65.00 were added to the treasury. They have bought a piano for the school, a couch for teachers' rest room, a medicine cabinet, flags for the children and apparatus for the playgrounds.

Stockbridge, 30 members:

Not organized until March of this year. This association has had little opportunity for real work, but they report having heard several good speakers, and have devoted to the Public Library a subscription to the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE.

Swampscott, Mothers' Club:

Hold meetings regularly, usually having a speaker. A Food Sale and Childrens' Entertainment was held. Several purity books and the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE have been provided by the club and circulated among its members.

Wollaston, Parent-Teacher Association:

Attractive programmes bring out an exceptionally good attendance, sometimes as many as 300. They have paid for restoring some old statuary in one of the school buildings and have bought pictures and art panels. At Christmas time eight families were supplied with generous dinners and clothing was distributed throughout the year; glasses, shoes and rubbers also were bought for children. The library committee is planning to start a library in the school, using the corridor for that purpose. A free kindergarten is maintained by the association; the city furnishes the school-

room but all other expense is borne by this club. Active committees are at work to see what further use can be made of the school buildings, also to get an appropriation from the city for a supervised playground.

MISSOURI

Twenty-five Parent-Teacher Associations Organized in Kansas City Since April—Board of Public Welfare Cooperates—Clayton Circle Gives Children's Library to Detention Room of Juvenile Court—Tuxedo Circle Works for Playground—Harrison Association Wants Rest Room for Teachers or Children—Mothers' Club of Jewish Alliance Has Better Babies' Contest

Kansas City reports the organization of twenty-five parent-teacher circles since the first annual convention held in Louisiana last April. So many associations were organized during the weeks preceding the Christmas holidays that it was hard to get organizers sufficient to supply the demand.

Many will be organized the first of the year. The success of the movement is due in a great measure to the enthusiastic support of the superintendent of schools, Mr. I. I. Cammack, and the assistance and influence of Mrs. E. R. Weeks.

The Board of Public Welfare is also cooperating with the parent-teacher associations and have opened the schools for social centre meetings.

The Clayton Mothers' Circle has recently presented the Circuit Court of St. Louis County with a library of one hundred and fifty volumes of high class story books for boys and girls, to be used in the detention rooms of the Juvenile Court. Most of the books were donated by mothers whose own boys or girls had outgrown them.

The Tuxedo Parent-Teacher Association is working hard to complete the arrangements for the opening of a public playground in their midst.

The mutual interest of parents and teachers has united them in a close bond of fellowship which has helped to inspire the leaders to greater efforts.

The Harrison School Mothers' Circle of Vanita Park are working to have a rest room and emergency cabinet for the benefit of the teachers and pupils who become ill or are hurt while at school.

The members of the circle were recently invited to meet in the school rooms, a privilege denied them heretofore.

December 22, 1913, the Mothers' Club of

the Jewish Alliance of St. Louis opened a "Better Babies" contest.

All babies of Jewish parentage under two years of age were admitted to the examination and registered. Circulars were distributed, printed in English and Yiddish, announcing the contest and the fact that prizes would be awarded those who scored the highest points as to health and normal development.

Though this circle has been giving lectures on child nurture for some time this was their first opportunity to study the results accomplished.

Leading physicians and nurses from the Jewish Hospital were kept busy from the moment the doors were opened until the closing time and the first day examined almost two hundred babies under one year. The second day babies between one and two years were examined and classified. Only one hundred and ten of the total number examined were eligible to enter the contest.

The score cards used were furnished by *The Woman's Home Companion*.

Although there were special prizes, such as a bronze medal, silver loving cup, silver cup, silver baby spoons and teething rings, yet every contestant was given a present, and literature on child care, proper diet, the throat, eyes, adenoids and tonsils, was given each mother who came, whether her child was admitted to the contest or not and many, no doubt will be better prepared for the next contest, which will be held in December, 1914.

Maplewood now has a flourishing Parent-Teacher Association and has some very good plans for future work.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

State Superintendent Morrison Urges All Superintendents to Organize Parent-Teacher Associations and Join National Congress of Mothers' and Parent-Teacher Associations

Mrs. John B. Moore, President of the New Hampshire branch of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, was invited by the state superintendent to give an address to the superintendents of New Hampshire at their winter conference. Mrs. Harriman also addressed the superintendents on behalf of the Congress. Mr. Morrison, State Superintendent, is very much interested and told the county superintendents that if they did nothing more than to organize parent-teacher associations during the next six months he would consider the year's work

well done. He urged that all associations join the State and National Congress of Mothers at once as only in that way did he feel there would be strength and unity in the work.

NEW YORK

Last June the one hundred women of the Mothers' Club of Buffalo, N. Y., decided to start a movement for Better Mothers' and Better Babies, that would be far-reaching in results, taking in not alone the City of Buffalo, but also the surrounding towns of western New York.

The better mother work is carried on through an affiliation committee of three women. This committee has developed among club members a band of twelve efficient speakers. They advertise widely through the daily press that requests will be filled for speakers before mothers' clubs, parent-teacher associations, church clubs, social or culture clubs. They also will send out women to organize new clubs, help formulate constitutions, to nurture new clubs, in fact every possible help will be heartily given for the betterment of women, children and home life.

Great care is exercised by the chairman, to adapt the speaker to the demand, and that the woman sent, has the capabilities to fill the particular need. Some women are capable of drawing about them a company of foreign mothers, to whom even the English language is still strange, and by their tact, sympathy, and big heartedness, make a never to be forgotten impression, that later shows up in a marked improvement in the home life of the transplanted family.

Some speakers happily combine messages that hearten the teacher, and make for a closer bond of sympathy between home and school. These women are sent to address parent-teacher meetings.

The social clubs and culture clubs draw women fitted to speak on civic advancement, child-welfare, home economics, the out-of-door life, conservation in its multitude forms, and kindred subjects.

Speakers with a sense of humor are always happily received, and many weary, careworn mothers take their homeward way after listening to one of these speakers, with the lines at the corners of their mouths reversed to an upward angle, and with a bit of cheer to pass on to the family circle.

Many are the requests coming in for speakers each month, and the happy result is, that benefit is derived not only by

the women addressed, but the speaker is undergoing a training which is fitting her for future service and for leadership.

It is desired that traveling expenses and entertainment of speakers sent out of town be borne by the club benefitted, but this is not a necessity, and no request for help has been turned down by the Mothers' Club of Buffalo. This work is commanding the attention, and securing co-operation of Buffalo's best citizens.

The better baby work has taken the form of a better baby contest, which began at the Erie County Fair in August and culminated December 16, 17, and 18, in a gathering of 177 beautiful babies, at an overwhelmingly successful contest. 177 sets of parents were bettered by the influence of the thorough mental and physical examinations, which brought an uplift, by necessitating a pause in the usual round of home life and home duties, while thought was centred upon the best ideas and suggestions of specialists on child health, training, and culture. The entire contest had large educational value to parents.

The number of entries were fully double the number anticipated, and babies came from homes of the wealthy, the well-to-do, the working class, and the poor, without restriction as to nationality or color. Babies up to 5 years were entered from Buffalo and 12 neighboring towns of western New York and Canada. At the closing hour a long line of mothers and fathers reluctantly heard that they were too late. It was realized that the work had already assumed such proportions that it would require an extension of time before the score cards could be made out and returned to the mothers. Not for a moment did interest flag, or the mothers forget the contest through all holiday preparation, and messages frequently over the phones, came asking—not, "did my baby win a prize?" but "could you tell me how my baby stood in physical development?"

The Better Baby Contest Committee were tireless in their efforts and were assisted by many of the club members. This committee was remarkably fortunate in securing a chairman of physicians and a head nurse who were especially adapted for the great responsibility which rested upon them, and they carried the work forward in a masterly manner. Forty physicians and dentists, and twenty nurses donated their services, and showed immense interest in helping on the contest. The Board of Health offered every assistance, The

Women's Union turned over its assembly floor for the use of the Mothers' Club. The merchants of Buffalo were most liberal in donations, and the atmosphere of the press was most kindly.

Back of all this bond of workers stood *The Woman's Home Companion*, which has aroused country-wide interest in better babies and with their wonderful organization, great generosity, thoroughly well equipped system, they made possible for the mothers of Buffalo this educational contest which it is hoped will result in healthier children and more intelligent care on the part of parents, as each mother in addition to receiving a copy of her baby's score card in the contest, also receives a printed booklet giving explicit directions for the care of her baby.

OREGON

Portland Has 51 Parent-Teacher Associations—Oregon Plans Large Delegation to go to Washington in April

Portland has made splendid progress with Parent-Teacher Associations organized in 51 schools. This is largely due to the city superintendent who has given active support and personal help in promoting these organizations. The city president, Mrs. Myers, has given much time to the work.

Mrs. F. A. Jackson, 433 East Sixteenth Street, North Portland, has accepted chairmanship of CHILD WELFARE MAGAZINE Committee and will promote its circulation among members of the Congress. Mrs. L. E. Ward is doing systematic work through Oregon papers to extend knowledge of the Mothers' Congress work.

Oregon hopes to send a large delegation to the Third International Congress on the Welfare of the Child in Washington, April 22-27. Active work is being done to interest many to go.

RHODE ISLAND

The Rhode Island Branch of Mothers' Congress Investigates Influence of Moving Pictures on Children—Valuable Testimony Secured

A State censorship of moving picture films was recommended by the special committee of the Rhode Island Congress of Mothers, in a report made yesterday afternoon to the Council of Presidents.

The special committee was appointed to investigate the character of films shown in the theatres of the State. The report, declaring that moving pictures are a recog-

nized force for good or evil and have come to stay, proposes a censorship that would eliminate pictures which may not be intrinsically immoral, but which display unedifying types of men or stories.

The meeting of the council was held at the Young Women's Christian Association at 4 o'clock and Mrs. Dwight K. Bartlett, President of the Congress and chairman of the committee which made the investigation, presented the report.

There was a large representation from the various clubs, and much interest was shown in the reports presented.

Mrs. Bartlett, in her report, outlined the recent investigation of "movies," and summed up the investigation as follows: types of moving picture buildings; lighting facilities; ventilation, (which she declared as generally poor); sanitary conditions, (which were good); moral tone of the management, (reported as good); advertising (lurid colors were regretted); vaudeville between the films (not very high standard); quality of moving pictures themselves (on the whole, fairly high grade).

In closing, Mrs. Bartlett mentioned the difficulties of one man, who is obliged to censor seventeen moving picture houses and other theatres, and asserted that under the present existing arrangement much good had been accomplished. She also spoke of the interest manifested by Mayor Gainer and his promise to support it.

He had, also, suggested that if the organization would embody the results of the investigation and send the recommendations to him, he would take it up with the police board and ascertain if a board of censorship could be appointed for theatres in general.

WASHINGTON

Mrs. C. E. Beach, National chairman of Parent-Teacher Association for the Western States, reports that she has addressed two teachers' institutes, one in Aberdeen, Chehalis county, and the other in Olympia. As a result of bringing the Parent-Teacher Association directly to the teachers many new circles have been organized. We have organized a County Parent-Teacher Association in Thurston county and have held one county convention. The Constitution provides for three county conventions in each school year, and the aim is to strengthen the rural and small town associations. Since our convention we have organized at Gate. Lacey, South Bay and Hayes Schools, the last two being rural schools. The County president, Mrs. Charles Hood, is a splendid worker and is aiming to make this the model county organization of the State. One other semi-county organization has been made in the south end of King county, taking in six associations. The president of that association is Mrs. J. W. Saustrom, Kent.

Important Offer to Mothers' Clubs and Parent-Teacher Associations

The kindergarten members of the Joint Committee have asked us to announce that they stand ready to furnish printed leaflets on the kindergarten, for distribution free of charge, to any branch of the National Congress of Mothers desiring the same. They will also furnish a short list of books along kindergarten lines for reading in mothers' circles. They have arranged for kindergarten speakers to

be sent by the International Kindergarten Union Publicity Committee, or by the National Kindergarten Association, to meetings of the National Congress of Mothers when asked for, free of charge. This is to assist the mothers in any community in awakening an intelligent interest in the kindergarten.

(Signed) (ELIZABETH HARRISON),
(Chairman of Joint Committee).

An Investigation of Influence of Moving Pictures upon Children

The following investigation amongst over two thousand school children of the grammar grade of Providence was made in an endeavor to determine the effect of motion pictures upon children and the part the pictures themselves play in their well being.

We realize that children of this age form a very small part of the audiences to be seen at the "movies" and yet this fact does not lessen the importance of determining the influence "movies" have upon this minority. This group of a certainty form the most impressionable of all the theatre-goers, and facts which apply to them must apply to others of a larger growth but in most cases, in a lesser degree.

The following question was sent to seven of the grammar schools of Providence, R. I.: "What kind of motion picture do you like best and why?" Of the total 2364 answers received it was found that 2208 attend motion pictures at irregular intervals, many once and twice a week, some only occasionally and again extreme cases like the one who wrote, "I go 156 times a year and I wouldn't miss a Saturday at 'Keith's' or 'The Colonial.'" Those who never attend either because "They do not like," "Parents do not permit," or "It hurts my eyes," number 156.

The proportional preference for different types of pictures is shown in the accompanying chart.

Grade	5	6	7	8	Totals.
Comedy	85	80	99	100	364
Western or Cowboy	192	211	186	146	735
Educational	95	183	317	312	907
Drama	25	34	36	44	139
Do not attend	20	44	47	43	156
Crime	5	19	10	29	63
	422	571	695	676	2364

It will be noted that in the majority of cases the older pupils prefer the educational type of picture, the younger ones having a decided preference for the Western or Cowboy type. While this daring, adventurous type of "movie" makes a natural appeal to the young American and often depicts desirable traits of character, as loyalty in comradeship, shaking hands with enemies, great bravery, willingness to

forgive a wrong, and care for the weak, the melodramatic features they present too often deal with drinking at bars, gambling, killing by shooting, etc., so that the children's minds are over-stimulated and it is difficult to estimate the amount of damage done by the objectionable features. The majority of reasons given for the preference for this type are similar to the boy's who says, "I like them because they are exciting and interesting and I forget everything." One child after having said he prefers "calm moving pictures about cowboys, Indians, and other historical things," makes this comment, "A child of my age (Grade 6B) that goes in and sees exciting pictures comes out excited and starts playing what he saw and becomes wild." Another says, "Western pictures sometimes make youths go out West to be cowboys and run away from home." Four of five said they liked this type because they played cowboy and they learned how to do it. Thus it is evident that the pictures create within them a desire to emulate the actors they see upon the screen. It has been suggested that a truly western wholesome type of picture could be produced by the manufacturers, eliminating the marionettes of the western gambler and the Mexican half-breed.

It is remarkable how well the children follow the story in a drama or a comedy and often get the truth intended, especially in the former. One says, "Pictures like these (the drama), often teach some of their watchers the lessons which the one in the picture has learnt." Another says "The comical picture gave a brief idea about things we ought not to do."

In the majority of those preferring crime it is rather because they like to see the triumph of justice and equally the skill and alertness of the detective mind. "I like to see detectives get crooks robbing banks or houses" or the "Mexins robbin' a mail train," because the picture shows wisdom in planning and capturing criminals. One boy quaintly says of detectives, "There great cues they easily procure from the expression of people. There sizing up of robbers is done evidently so easily in most cases. Scheming pictures much oppress (impress) the mind." The picture that shows a house or store being robbed is a great favorite often because, "I like to know how they do it."

That there are types of pictures being given which undoubtedly exert an unwholesome influence is evidenced by the following, "I like where men has a wife and three children and the wife has a fellow."

"I like where their husbun's go an play pool and then when there money is gone they go home and take there wife jewel's and leive them and never come back again." One boy gives as his preference the moving picture about "Harry K. Thaw who got put in prison on account of murdering" and shows himself familiar with the details of his life, having also seen Evelyn Thaw at the theatre.

That much of what they see in its suggestive unwholesomeness passes over the heads of the children is undoubtedly true, but that a certain irreverence for things that should be inviolable and sacred is created in the minds of many young people is an equally indubitable fact.

One of the most pleasing deductions of this brief survey is the preponderating preference in the upper grades for the educational or scientific type of "movie." It is a credit to the schools and shows what can be done by directing a child's interests in proper channels. The reasons given for this preference are duplicates of the following: "Because when we study our history we have a clear picture of what we are talking about." "Because you can learn quicker from moving pictures than from books. If schools had moving pictures about their lessons the children would pay a great deal more attention then (to) books." "Because it helps me and I can pass through my grade."

The papers reviewed have included large numbers of Italian, some Portugese and some Armenian. It is interesting to see how Americanized these children of foreign-born parents have become. The teacher of a boy having a most beautiful Italian name, in her enthusiasm in teaching American history must certainly have forgotten the individuals in her group since in telling of his interest in a moving picture of an English war he says, "It was about a general in England or our *Mother Country*."

Notice what excellent English this boy with a most unpronounceable name uses in expressing himself,—"I like the moving picture play named 'Quo Vadis' for which I give three reasons, its historic views, its

antique occurrence, and the tragical and disgraceful end of a tyrannical ruler."

The reason for the preference for comedy in so many instances is voiced by the little chap who writes: "If a person goes to a show he goes to laugh and not to cry, for he has so many troubles at his home." It is the eternal if blind and misguided seeking for happiness nowhere stronger than in the hearts of these young people.

The harm done to young girls by silly love stories is unquestionable. While boys over and again say of their own accord, "I don't like love pictures, they are silly," many girls agree in spirit with the one who writes, "I like love moving pictures best. It is exciting when two men want to marry the same girl. They are more charming than others."

Boys prefer pictures of deeds of bravery as voiced by the little boy who writes: "I like fire engines because when we get big enough to be gentlemen we will know how to be firemen, how to drive fire horses and how to help people escape without getting hurt."

It is extremely difficult to establish a standard in the censorship of motion pictures, but if in time we can arrive at the moral effect produced by certain types of pictures on the most impressionable minds we shall come nearer to evolving such a standard. The motion picture is a recognized force for good or evil in our life to-day and has come to stay. There is no more direct way to educate and uplift millions of people than by putting an educating and uplifting influence in the "movies."

Neither managers or film manufacturers are wholly to blame that more films of this nature are not exhibited. It is business, not philanthropy with them; the public taste creates the demand.

Considering the fact that evidence proves that this taste if left undirected is far from being uplifting and wise, some sort of State censorship is deemed advisable. States having such are protected from the tramp films which are the most objectionable type.

But our greatest hope lies in those censors of the future,—the children—and we shall help much if we can educate and create in them a taste for the best in morals and art.

MAUD O. BARTLETT.

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

ON THE

WELFARE OF THE CHILD

WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 22-27, 1914

Under the Auspices of

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MOTHERS

AND

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS

HEADQUARTERS, "THE RALEIGH"

PARENTS, Teachers, Clergymen, Statesmen of every nation, the welfare of the children of to-day is in your keeping, child nurture is the greatest of all sciences.

The culture of childhood in the light of science will raise the standards of the race.

To equip all children to do their work in the world better than it has been done before is the most far reaching work for fathers, mothers, teachers and statesmen of every nation.

INFANT MORTALITY IS PREVENTABLE

WITHOUT parental knowledge of baby hygiene babies' lives are sacrificed at a rate of 300,000 annually in the United States.

With parental knowledge of baby hygiene the mortality can be reduced 75 per cent.

What are you doing to safeguard the babies?

CRIME IS PREVENTABLE

HAVE you studied the causes that fill the reform schools and prisons?

What are you doing for intelligent, purposeful, comprehensive, preventive work?

The prevention of crime rests with the home, the church, the school, the state.

Each has its share in constructive, preventive work.

Have you studied the relation of home, church, school, and State to crime?

It is a broad study. Without the proper functioning of home, church, school and State crime will continue.

Every neglected, wrongly-treated child becomes a menace to the State.

Neglected childhood exists wherever the principles of successful child nurture and child treatment are not understood.

The future of every nation rests on comprehensive, well-considered provisions for the care of the children.

An International Child Welfare Conference to be successful must represent the four agencies that make conditions under which children live.